

August 4, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 10, 2008

a.m. *"The Gospel"*

Scripture: Galatians 1:6-10

p.m. *"Author of Their Salvation"*

Scripture: Hebrews 2:5-10

God's Word Brings Peacefulness

Don Hatch

God, the Father, is the "God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob", "Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" and "all they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham" (Matt 22:32, 33; Gal 3:23-28; Eph 1:3, 4). These truths show us the most precious blessings known to mankind. The faithfulness of God and the greatness of our privileges and marvelous wisdom of God's plan of salvation are consistent throughout the Bible. The Bible is not a single book but is a connection of many. There is unity in the whole of the Bible. The New Testament is not independent from the Old Testament. The full meaning of each section appears as a harmonious whole like links of a golden chain which reach from eternity to eternity. One grand purpose of this golden chain is to manifest God's steadfastness. It exhibits God in history without variableness. In spite of changing times and stages of civilization the Bible unfolds to confirm that faith in God and His comforting plan is the most valuable thing mankind can store up in their hearts. God's mercy, grace and blessings comfort the hearts of the believers and as they walk the pilgrim's pathway they trod the same path of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the just men made perfect by the blood of Jesus (Heb 12:22-25). God guided the faithful safely along the path of life with covenants wherein were found favors and blessings. God loved man from before the foundation of the world and will love him throughout eternity.

Each section of the scripture connects with the others teaching and illustrating the ingenious plan of God. God gave, with each advancing period, a fuller and more complete communication of His plan. The moral law, Mosaic Law, types, typical, history, prophecy, precepts and promises unfolded into a progressive developing scheme of redemption. All the books testify of the same thing. Not one of them can be left out for a proper understanding to be revealed. When we read the entire Bible we see how the account of creation, calling of the faithful and the recorded history of these faithful all are counterparts of the fulfillment of God's plan. Revelation manifests the glories of what awaits the faithful. It is astonishing to have in a work written under dissimilar circumstances by penmen so different, in periods so evidently separated, with agreement on God, man, morals, sin, righteousness and the heavenly hope. The expectation of the reader of the Bible is to move calmly, deeply and securely through its pages and ultimately have a proper understanding of the fullness of God's plan. The Old Testament is not only the law, which was a "tutor" to bring us to faith in Christ with its types and shadows but a full history of Christ (Gal 3: 23-29). Such accounts like the offering of Isaac by Abraham typify the Christ (Gen 22; Heb 11:17-19). By reading the scriptures we learn how Jesus is the way, truth and the life (Jn 14:6). One of the most hopeful signs in history is the

countless times it is verified as the word of the Lord, living, active and sharper than a two edged sword (Heb 4:12, 13). The scriptures reason with the faithful that they should earnestly and faithfully qualify themselves through faith and divine grace for the enjoyment of the blessings of God.

Committed Christians know that keeping God's commandments are a part of a cherished fellowship with Him (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). If Naaman, who was told to do the simplest task of dipping himself in the Jordan River seven times, had not followed the prophet's directions he would have died a leper (2 Kg 5). The word of the Lord is active and alive because it is supported by Him (Heb 4:13, 14). God is the source of all power (Rom 13:1; Matt 28:18-20). His word is not a lifeless abstraction, but living and is the embodiment of His will, going wherever He requires. His word goes forth from His mouth and will not return to Him void, prospering in every thing it was sent to do (Isa 55:10,11). This word is applied as an instrument to prosper the soul which surrenders to Him. Souls that are wise know that the spiritual part of life must be guarded, protected and nurtured (2 Cor 4:16-18; 1 Pet 2:1, 2). The spirit is the seat of intellect and moral faculties within mankind. God's word must act upon mankind's will. Holy Writ from God guides mankind to discern, correct thoughts and principles wherein there is purpose in their hearts when applying the word of God to nurture and direct them in His own right way. God's word has a judicial nature which enables the faithful to deal with affections, desires, responsibilities and all processes of the spiritual and moral temperament.

The manifest nature of God's word is to establish within man a desire for a relationship with God. This instrument of training the will of man presents itself in aspects where the Christian holy brotherhood is a matter of choice and spiritual advantage over the world. How much depends on the fidelity of God and man is set forth in eloquence and directness. We can draw near to God with full assurance that He will hear and respond to all thanksgivings, sacrifices, requests, supplications and intercessions in a spiritual manner. Fidelity to the end of life is essential in order to enjoy God's great salvation (Heb 4:6, 14). Admonitions are issued against follies which are so prevalent in man. The perseverance of mankind's soul does not allow man to trifle with God's word but to have a continuation of wellbeing, honor and immortality. The faithful are counseled not to have a hardening of the heart (Heb 4:1-16).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Carolyn and I were blessed this Sunday to worship with the West Side church of Christ in St. Louis, MO and hear their preacher, Kevin Rutherford. His dad, Rod has written for the Truth for the World for many years. I met Kevin's brother, Brett, in Tasmania two years ago. Kevin graciously loaned his car to Glen Tattersall while they were making their rounds through Texas and Oklahoma. Our hotel was only about five miles from West Side. It is a small world for Christians that love the Lord and one another.

Carol and I enjoyed the two weekends last month with the Tattersall's. They are dedicated in presenting Christ to the people of Australia. Glen, Kuin and Trevor teach Jesus Christ and are

great examples of living their lives for the Savior. Glen can be reached via internet through "Skype" for real time video and audio.

Dennis and Beth Johnson stayed with us in June and we had a great time. They are continually having great challenges in India. The latest news is that they have been out of water for several days. Imagine trying to run a school with no running water for a hundred people. Beth just says "that's India". She should know after forty years of raising a big family there. We appreciate the wonderful efforts of the Johnson's in educating the people of India in becoming Christians and ministers of the gospel.

Our prayers are for all our missionaries and preachers of the gospel, where ever they may be. Take some time and send them a note of thanks or an email of encouragement.

Have a wonderful week in the Lord,

~ Richard Renfro

A Beautiful Life by W. M. Golden

"Each day I will do a golden deed by helping those who are in need. My life on earth is but a span and so I will do the best I can. To be a child of God each day my light must shine along the way. I will sing His praise while ages roll and strive to help some troubled soul. The only life that will endure is the one that's kind and good and pure. And so for God I will take my stand each day I will lend a helping hand. I will help some one in time of need and journey on with rapid speed. I will help the sick and poor and weak and words of kindness to them speak. While going down life's weary road I will try to lift some traveler's load. I will try to turn the night to day. Make flowers bloom along the way".

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Your Life Is An Open Book

Paul the Apostle of Christ said, "You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2). Truly no axiom could be more revealing and cause us a greater desire for self-examination (2 Cor 13:5).

Upon contemplation of this view of one's life all must consider what is read by God and mankind. Some casually scan our lives, others read thoroughly, but each will have an observation to make afterwards. Is it a narrative that you wish could be changed to rewrite the ending? Do you wish it was one of godliness and dignity? Do you want to add future chapters of goodness and piety? Does your book reflect your deepest desire to be a child of God and manifest faithful obedience? When others read your book do they find a synopsis of peace, joy and fellowship with God? The Bible addresses all of our fears and woes, guiding us to a better book of our lives. Often the only book people read about Christ is our life's story. Is your book worth the read? Start a new chapter this Sunday, worshiping with us.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the August 8, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

THINK ABOUT IT..

We'll never bring all the world into Christ until we bring Christ into the world. We'll have no faith in the mission before us unless we have faith in the Master behind us. We'll never get others to obey the commands until we obey the commission. We can't make Christ mean anything to others until we make Him mean everything to us. Let's not say jeeringly, "Look what the world is coming to!" but joyfully say, "Look what has come to the world!" We'll never get excited over sowing the seed until we get excited over seeing the need. We'll have more conversions when we have more convictions. We'll never get others to see the joy of claiming Christ until we get ourselves to see the joy of proclaiming Christ. We'll never really consider the lost until we stop considering the cost. We won't have to pay the penalty in the reaping if we are willing to pay the price in the sowing.

~ George Bailey

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 10, 2008

Front foyer: Grady & BC Fowler; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, August 17, 2008

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

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.

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Our theme this year is "Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining". Next Wednesday's lesson is entitled "**There is Judgement to Come**" & will be brought to us by Brother Charles Billingsly. Scripture reference: 2 Timothy 4:1-8.

LADIES

We will meet on **Tuesday, August 12th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex to work on bears. Please join us!

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The last meeting for the summer (**August 12th**) will be at College Street in Waxahachie. Meet at the building at 5:30p.m. for a ride.

GOSPEL MEETING

Mark your calendar for our Fall Gospel Meeting which is scheduled for October 26-29, 2008. Brother Robert Dodson will be our guest speaker.

A BLESSING!

We're happy to announce that **Dustin DuPree** (the Townsend's grandson) was baptized into Christ yesterday; he is a member of the Legacy Church of Christ in N. Richland Hills.

IN APPRECIATION

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ, thank you so much for your prayers, cards, kindnesses & words of encouragement during the loss of my husband, Bill Roses. The meal at the Annex was delicious and very much appreciated. Special thanks to the faithful workers who prepared this meal. Continue to pray for me & my family. I could not make it without you and the Lord. With heartfelt thanks, Polly Roses & family

A sincere Thank You for the calls, cards, & to all who came to the visitation & service. Your prayers & concern have helped us through this trying time for our family. The family of Mike Keefer

WITH SYMPATHY

Please remember **Dana Hodgkins** and her family due to the passing of her former husband; a memorial was held at the Bear Creek Cemetery last Friday.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Mike Batot** underwent successful testing last week.
- **Jane Easter** is ill at home.
- **Linda Head** is at home following foot surgery last Friday.
- **Hank Henry** suffers with circulation problems.
- **Beverly McKey** still struggles with asthma.
- **Tom Prince** is at home & not feeling well.
- **Robert Ruckman** is now home after a trip to the ER with chest pain.
- **Jan Smithson** is ill at home with many health problems.

- **Carol Swinney** was released from the hospital yesterday (8/3/08).
- **Lee Castro** (Debra Alonzo's brother-in-law) is in Parkland for heart bypass surgery.
- **Percy Henry** (Hank's brother) suffers with inoperable cancer.
- **Christopher Tuttle** (Carol Partridge's grandson) is struggling with some problems.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bingham, Fauna Garrett, Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), 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 -

- Aug 12: Ladies work on bears in Annex at 10:00 a.m.
- Aug 12: Youth Series Meeting
- Aug 13: Wed. Night Summertime Preaching, Charles Billingsly
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Jamie Little

Sunday evening:

- Melissa Allen

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Stan Selby
- Max Melton

SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
Galatians 1:6-10

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Jeremy Hardegree
- Melvin Armstrong

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

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	100	77	95	125
A.M. Worship	163	142	168	210
P.M. Worship	101	95	94	112
Wed. Class	94	100	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$5086	\$6433	\$5426	\$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