

April 26, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

May 2, 2010

a.m. "*Heart and Mouth*"

Scripture: Romans 10:1-15

p.m. "*Sifted a Wheat*"

Scripture: Luke 22:31-34

The Bible Is Foremost In World Events

Don Hatch

The watch words of the Bible have always been "Search the Scriptures". Christ placed a search warrant before His disciples. Today it is being snatched away as some try to silence God and dismantle America's Christian heritage. Pay particular attention to the countries of the entire world. It is astounding. There are 57 countries controlled by Islam, 10 by Communism and many others governed by various "isms". Each of these minimizes the Bible or will not let it be used as a resource for moral and religious lives. For them the Bible is a "closed book", kept from the masses by their leaders. When and if their people read the Bible it seems like an unknown tongue. The **keynote** of the "Restoration Movement" has been "back to the Bible", "What is more than the Bible is too much and what is less than the Bible is not enough". When the Bible is disparaged by those who claim to be "Christians," what will those who do not believe suppose? Men like John Wycliffe and Martin Luther, who translated the Scriptures into the common language of the people, knew that there was a need for "Reformation" because the Bible was a forbidden book to the masses. Great was their anticipation and great was their disappointment when their plea to have the Bible translated so individuals might read it fell on deaf ears. The Bibles were chained to the pulpits and few knew the "word". These men were pioneers of progress to see the Scriptures available to all.

Two important facts are that Christ never changes and the Bible is the only place where valid information concerning Him can be found. The Bible must remain an unaltered volume, divinely sealed with no appendix and no addendum. The torch bearers for the Bible know how it illuminates men and nations. Those who go to it have their consciences purged and lives set upon a spiritual and moral level which elevates them. As mankind passes through the "Valley of the Shadow of Death" they need a guiding light which will lead them to eternity's shore, prepared to meet their God. The motto "Semper Idem Fildelis" means always the same or faithfully the same. The teachings of the Bible are the same for all generations. They are faithful words of life. Jesus' name is the only name wherein mankind can find salvation (Acts 4:12) and His instructions are found in the Bible alone. The "Gospel" illuminates the dark passages of life with "heaven's light". The Bible is the only book written by "holy men who were moved by the Holy Spirit" (2 Pet 1:21). The Bible can overcome "Tyrants and tyranny".

Virginia's State flag has "sic simper tyrannis" depicting virtue, overcoming and defeating a tyrant. Virtue has its own reward. The Bible is the forefront of every great spiritual and moral awakening throughout the world.

The Bible supports the best domestic life. This is the beginning of all happiness and civilization. Looking at the home and its impact on a nation gives us a vista of what is and what can be. When the home is not a place where the family finds a sanctuary from the world there will be no domestic peace. The Bible leads the way to the conditions for betterment of social life. When critics scrutinize places where decent men live in graciousness, comfort and security, supporting and educating their children a place where age is revered, infancy respected, womanhood honored and human life held in high regard. They must concede that the Bible and the Gospel of Jesus Christ laid such a foundation. Christian principles have given rise to institutions such as hospitals, schools with uplifting conditions. It is the forefront of industry, honest toil, not bond slaves with no remuneration for labor. A laborer is worthy of his hire. No doubt there are still wrongs to be righted, but Christian principles can do this if permitted.

An impassioned plea of our "founding fathers" was a national life where the best was natural and excellence was commonplace. The United States was founded on principles wherein the people were to rule themselves. These men knew that if those of the "Reform Movements" had not insisted on unchaining the Bible our country would not be based on Judeo-Christian principles. The great principles of jurisprudence found within the Bible are included in much of the United States jurisprudence. Marx, Stalin, Mao and other world leaders ruled through tyranny, starvation, murder and threat. They murdered millions after the Second World War in similitude to Adolf Hitler. These cannot brag of bettering the world. Where Christianity is unadulterated it will produce better citizens. Our country is Christian. "...The first entire Bible printed in America as early as 1777, in the War for Independence, Congress considered funding the importation of Bibles from Holland or Scotland. Robert Aitken, an immigrant from Scotland, published a New Testament and then asked Congress' permission to publish the entire Bible. As his petition noted, "...in every well regulated Government in Christendom the Holy Bible was published under the Authority of the Sovereign Powers, in order to prevent the fatal confusion that would arise, and the alarming injuries the Christian faith might suffer from the spurious and erroneous editions of Divine Revelation. Aitken printed Congress' authorization and support in the front of his Bible. This was the only Bible ever authorized by an act of Congress". America has Judeo-Christian principles as her foundation and they must be maintained!

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

The Herald of Truth reports that out of the 6.7 billion souls in the world, 4.4 billion don't know Jesus. We have a lot of work to do. We at Belt Line Road support Willie Gley in Ghana, Africa as he works with World Bible School (WBS) in distributing their correspondence courses as well as distributing Mission Printing (MP) tracts. Willie also does many other good works, including establishing and directing a preaching school in Togo. MP received a very exciting request this week from Ruth Orr, a WBS teacher. I will paraphrase her note:

"I recently traveled to Ghana and met with Willie Gley and he put me to work stamping hundreds of MP tracts with the Nsawam church Of Christ contact information. Recently, WBS had 85 baptisms, 60 were former Muslims. I send each convert your tract "What Every New Christian Should Know". I need at about 200 of these tracts plus as many as you can send of the other tracts that I have indicated. It is wonderful to see churches all over Ghana and Nigeria using these wonderful tracts. Thank you for sending the tracts". Ruth Orr

This is only one of the many inspiring requests that we receive at MP every week. This should thrill Christians everywhere, that the lost are hearing the Word through reading it for themselves. This makes us very proud of the work that Willie Gley is doing throughout West Africa. MP's first sea container of tracts are being distributed by Willie Gley and MP is working on its second sea container to Monday John Akpakpan in Nigeria. Please pray for Monday John, he was just released from a three day hospital stay with typhoid and malaria. Belt Line is helping to evangelize the world through the printed page as we support MP.

~ Richard Renfro

The Great Commission: Matthew 28:18-20

"And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" Amen.

"Give ear to my words, O Jehovah, Consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God; For unto thee do I pray. O Jehovah, in the morning shalt thou hear my voice; In the morning will I order my prayer unto thee, and will keep watch. For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: Evil shall not sojourn with thee. The arrogant shall not stand in thy sight: Thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou wilt destroy them that speak lies: Jehovah abhorreth the blood-thirsty and deceitful man. But as for me, in the abundance of thy lovingkindness will I come into thy house: In thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple. Lead me, O Jehovah, in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; Make thy way straight before my face. For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is very wickedness; Their throat is an open sepulchre; They flatter with their tongue. Hold them guilty, O God; Let them fall by their own counsels; Thrust them out in the multitude of their transgressions; For they have rebelled against thee. But let all those that take refuge in thee rejoice, Let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: Let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee" (Psm 5:1-11).

The Psalmist encourages the faithful to take refuge in Jehovah and rejoice. Frequently the scriptures allow us to see individuals going through difficult circumstances. What seems like an incessant circumstance God in His perfect goodness exercises His love and mercy (Heb 4:14-16). The ultimate foundation upon which the Christian stands is that suffering, pain and distress fill the world. At first glance it seems that God is not concerned. Such is not true. God is great

and good. He manifested His care and love for the Patriarchs, Israel and Christians through His providence. The Bible contains hundreds of examples of difficulties being faced by the faithful. A poem by Robert Hamilton gives insight into the vastness of contending with difficulties;” I walked a mile with Pleasure, She chatted all the way, But left me none the wiser, For all she had to say. I walked a mile with Sorrow, And ne’er a word said she; But oh, the things I learned from her, When Sorrow walked with me!” As strange as it seems lessons are learned when one passes through perilous times.

When storms have passed and all is well with our souls we remember the Source which afforded strength and help. God was with Job in his turbulent times of life and blessed him in the end. All of God’s blessings are not while upon the earth. Lazarus died of his sickness but was carried to the bosom of Abraham where he was comforted (Lk 16:19-31). God, our Father, is the God of all comfort and comforts us in all our afflictions that we might be able to comfort others in their afflictions (2 Cor 1:3-11).

Paul knew discomfitures in his life. He reminded the Christians that God is a God of grace (2 Cor 12:1-11; Phil 4:10-20). Paul said, “I can do all things in him [Christ] that strengtheneth me” (Phil 4:13). David rejoiced in the presence of God while fleeing from a murderous enemy. All Christians can rejoice because God loves, defends and blesses them (2 Cor 6:1-10). ~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby; Max Melton

Back foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

Sunday, May 2, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

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.

CHRIST'S HAVEN

The Christ's Haven will be back around for grocery pickup on **Tuesday, June 15th**. Please pick up a bag with the current needs list and have filled bags back to the building by Monday, June 14th.

LADIES

If you did not receive a cookbook given out at Ladies' Day or after worship yesterday, or if you would like extra copies for gifts, they are available for \$5 each. Please see Beverly McKey.

If we borrowed your ice chest for Ladies' Day, it is ready for pickup in the Annex.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're gearing up for Vacation Bible School **June 14-16th** with the theme on the Prophets. Get the word out to your friends & neighbors & invite them to come.

Also, a meeting is planned for all VBS teachers & workers **Sunday, May 1st** at 5pm in the main auditorium.

THANK YOU

We want to extend a huge thank you to Bloomtown Florist and to the Prude's for the beautiful floral arrangement provided for our pulpit for Ladies' Day and for worship yesterday.

Dear Beltline Church Family, thank you all for your kind words, prayers, cards and beautiful plant that you sent after my father passed away. We feel so fortunate to have such a loving and caring church family. In Christian love, Tony and Shellie Pearce.

THOSE TO SERVE IN MAY

Lord's table (front): Purman Cofer, Bill Matthews, John Mayer, Jerry Baker, Henry Seidmeyer, Brandon Howard, Mike Garrison, Dorris Walker **(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Keith Vaughn, Derrol Allen, Bill Paschall, Roy Martin, Max Melton

p.m. Thomas Rathbun, Robert Ruckman

Card Pickup: a.m. Alex Mayer, Curtis Vaughan p.m. Nathan Allen, Kenny Mayer

Contribution Counters: Mike Garrison, Glen Kelly

Communion Preparers: Ilene Ashworth, Mary Wise

NEWS OF THE SICK

·**Evelyn Armstrong** is scheduled for brain surgery on June 17th.

·**Billie Gilliam** is in Baylor/Irving, room #308 following hip replacement surgery.

·**Joann Hatch** successfully completed a chemical stress test last week & is awaiting results.

·**Frances LaFerney** had a rough weekend.

·**Carol Swinney** is now on a schedule for iron treatments.

·**Monday Akpakpan** (Nigerian missionary) was hospitalized with malaria & typhoid, but is now home doing better.

·**Jessie Lee Caskey** (wife of Mission Printing founder) is now out of ICU; however, her body is not healing well & she has now developed fluid on her lungs.

·**Telanda Sadler** (Military missionary) does NOT have cancer.

·**Virgil Thomas** (friend of the Matthews') has recovered from a blood infection, but still suffers with rheumatoid & osteo-arthritis.

·**Jared Thomason II** (Brandon's infant nephew) is in NICU with complications.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Hank Henry, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson. Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brenda Alsup (Lotah Franklin's friend), Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- May 2: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- May 2: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- May 1: Youth Work Day
- May 2: VBS teacher/worker meeting main auditorium at 5:00 p.m.
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Jerry Baker
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Brandon Howard
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall
- Roy Martin
- Max Melton

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Stan Selby
- Garl Latham

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Mike Batot
Romans 10:1-15

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Nathan Allen
Luke 22:31-34

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Garl Latham

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

· Thomas Rathbun
· Robert Ruckman

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

· Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	75	78	81	125
A.M. Worship	154	145	145	210
P.M. Worship	73	77	76	112
Wed. Class	76	85	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	22	21	28	35
Contribution	\$5038	\$5455	\$5380	\$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