

November 29, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

December 5, 2010

a.m. "*Unchanging Christ*"

Scripture: Hebrews 13:1-10

p.m. "*Transforming and Beholding*"

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

Lord's Day Don Hatch

The words Lord's Day are never accompanied with other words tending to give an explanation. It was understood that this day was special. Following the lead of the apostles, the church mounted a campaign to make the first day of every week special to the disciples. It became an institution, a marked date which the church continued to observe for thousands of years. It is a Christian observance. No other day can match its importance or rank higher. The historical and biblical reference to "the Lord's Day" referred to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave (Jn 20:1-5). In the second century it became known as "Sunday". The Christians were described as coming together on the first day of the week (Acts 2; 20:7). The church began on the day of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover and it was the first day of the week (Jn 20:1).

Jewish keeping of the Sabbath was on the 7th day or last day of every week. Christianity does not keep the Sabbath nor is Sunday the "Christian Sabbath". The Sabbath had been a "holy day" because God sanctified it and made it holy (Gen 2:2; Ex 20:8-11; Heb 4:4). This day, according to the Old Covenant, was to be observed each week without failure. The New Covenant, inaugurated a new and different day of the week (Col 2:8-15; 16-20). The New Covenant was enacted upon the blood of Jesus Christ, not the blood of animals (Jn 13:34; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 8-13) A covenant is a promise or undertaking, human or divine (Gal 3:15). It is an agreement established at the death of Jesus Christ on which salvation of mankind is secured (Mat 26:28; Lk 22:20; 1 Cor 11:25; 2 Cor 3:6; Heb 10:29; 12:24; 13:20). It is called the New Covenant (Heb 9:15), second (Heb 8:7) and better (Heb 7:22). The church of Christ partakes of the Lord's Supper each first day of each week.

The New Testament can be broken [covenant-breakers-Gk asunqetos]. Covenant-breaking is refusing to obey agreements of the New Covenant or New Testament, Will or Covenant. It is considered being faithless (Rom 1:31). Covenants are treaties made and negated by not fulfilling the conformity found within the agreement (Gal 3:15-22). It presumes a person who was at peace with God is now alienated from Him (Eph 2:11-23). The state of peace was terminated, interrupted and the party who does such is considered unrighteous. To substitute another day as the time to take of the Lord's Supper would be considered "covenant-

breaking". As a part of the apostolic teachings [final authority for the church] they, by inspiration, gave the **first day of the week** as the God designated day for partaking of the Lord's Supper and "laying by in store" (Act 2:42; 20:4; 1Cor 16:1-5; Rev 1:10). Other acts of worship like singing, praying and preaching can be practiced on any other day. The Lord's Supper and laying by in store is confined to **just one day each week**. No other individual or individuals had or has the authority to change the day upon which the Lord's Supper will be taken. **No eldership** can pray or fast and then reinterpret the Bible teachings. The partaking of the Lord's Supper is neither **Mass, Liturgy** nor **Rite**. Christians are not bound by rituals or conventions of men. They observe the New Covenant teachings and heed the apostolic authority without hesitation. To convene a congregation on Saturday evening offering the Lord's Supper is a clear breach of faith and fellowship with God. No man living has this privilege. The building in which the Lord's Supper is taken and the table upon which it is spread is not a **shrine**.

A congregation of individuals cannot change an Apostolic decree. These men were inspired and no men living neither has such authority, nor are they inspired to write anything greater than the current New Testament. The passing of time should not lessen the desire of the church to be guided by the Apostolic authority. They did not claim to be able to write or teach anything which did not come to them except by divine inspiration. Individuals, two millenniums after the Apostles, are not entitled to rewrite the New Testament nor impose new ordinance.

Historically the Bible has been the one and only source of divine teachings on all aspects of worship. The first day of the week for taking of the Lord's Supper has Bible authority and historical precedent. The Lord's Day has been consistently named as the rightful day for "remembering" the sacrifice of Jesus in the Lord's Supper (1 Cor 11:1-39; 16:1-4; Acts 20:1-5; 2:42). If the Lord's Day comes each week, on the first day of each week, it would be incongruous to partake of it every day of the week, at the death of an individual (Requiem Mass). Men have changed the meaning of worship and ways in which they choose to worship God. That does not mean God accepts them. Covenant-breaking is not uncommon. It, however, has great consequences. Keeping the Lord's Day worship in spirit and truth is still an imperative.

The church of Christ seeks to restore and maintain the "Ancient Order". The **Apostolic Order** and **Authority** is the only means of knowing if one is Christian or a pagan. We cannot go to any other book for our practices, purposes and principles. We must remain New Testament Christians or be covenant-breakers. Apostasy is no choice. Being apostate is to deny fellowship with Christ, His Apostles and New Testament Christians. Prepare to worship in spirit and truth each Lord's Day. Make it as special in your life as it was in the Lord's. He gave His all that we might live. Live as though we are restoring first century Christianity in the 21st century.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

How can a congregation exist for more than 55 years, and remain sound and biblical like the day it started? Still proclaiming to be a congregation like was established in the first century. Singing, praying, preaching, worshiping, and giving to God the same way the early church did. Brethren, it takes brothers and sisters who love God, His Word, and striving to keep God's commandments for longevity like Belt Line has experienced. Through the years Belt Line has really been richly blessed to have faithful brothers and sisters who love God and His Word.

The present eldership, collectively, have more than 67 years in this capacity. The present elders are very fortunate to have served in some capacity with the first eldership Belt Line Road installed more than 55 years ago. Truly, our God has blessed the congregation with many dedicated Christian leaders, both brothers and sisters over the years in existence. 1 Cor. 15:57, 58..."But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Pure Gospel preaching, teaching and committed dedication by its members has kept Belt Line on the straight and narrow path. Praise God! If we continue to follow the past in the future, Belt Line will be in existence many, many years if God gives us the time.

The ultimate author of every word in the Bible is the Holy Spirit. The setting forth of the will of God in both the Old and New Testaments was accomplished as "men spake from God, being moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21). It is our responsibility to acknowledge the authority of this Book of writings and to receive it "not as a word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God, which worketh in you that believe." (I Thess. 2:13).

Attendance is very important and we must be meeting with and having fellowship with the saints when at all possible. Have a great week serving God! Keep all of our sick and shut-ins in your private and public prayers.

~ Dean Webb

"Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said to them, repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call. And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, be saved from this perverse generation Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (NKJ Acts 2:37-47).

PREACHING THE WORD

“They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word. And Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and proclaimed unto them the Christ. and the multitudes gave heed with one accord unto the things that were spoken by Philip, when they heard, and saw the signs which he did. For from many of those that had unclean spirits, they came out, crying with a loud voice: and many that were palsied, and that were lame, were healed. And there was much joy in that city” (Acts 8:4-8).

The Great Commission calls upon the church to carry the message of Jesus into the nations (Mat 28:18-20; Lk 24:44-48). Preaching the Gospel to every creature [mankind] is a work in progress (Mk 16:15-16). Bringing “glad tidings” is proclaiming Jesus’ life, death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God the Father (Acts 2). The message of the Gospel is to bring cheer and glad tidings to the hearers. Salvation is the theme of the Bible (Eph 1:3-15). Jesus freely bestowing on us redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins is according to the riches of God’s grace (Eph 2:1-11). It was God’s good will and purpose to sum up all things concerning salvations in heaven and earth in Christ Jesus. Accordingly all can become a heritage in the promise of salvation and sealed by the Holy Spirit, as an earnest of the inheritance of this redemption.

Preaching the Gospel is being a “herald”. Heralds bring good news or announce an important event, telling what is happening, a forerunner of something that will happen. Historically they are officially sanctioned to speak for a King as His official messenger or representatives performing an official duty. Jesus commanded His disciples to preach the message to the nations. It was a “heart’s desire” for the early church to proclaim Jesus as King and Saviour (Rom 10:1-17). The Gospel was the “words of faith” to be preached. These caused individuals to believe, repent, confess Jesus as the Son of God and be baptized in His name for the remission of their sins. With the heart mankind believes unto righteousness and with the mouth a confession is made unto salvation.

Believers are called upon to teach others of the saving grace (Eph 2:1-23). Making men understand the dispensation of the mystery of the aged that was fulfilled in Jesus is a work of the church (Eph 3:1-13). The church allows the world to see their faith in Jesus Christ. The intention was that the church of Christ makes known the manifold wisdom of God according to the eternal purpose which He purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord. Boldness and confidence is insured by pressing on the goal of the high calling in Christ (Phil 3:13-15). God works in the church His will and good pleasure. They are seen as lights in the world holding forth the word of life (Phil 2:12-18).

As the church was scattered abroad they carried the message which converted individuals. Acts of the Apostles is a book with illustrations of conversions. By reading Act 2; 8; 9; 10; 16 an individual can see examples of conversion. These examples include preaching, believing, repenting, confessing, baptism and being added to the Church of Christ. Other passages like Rom 10:1-17; Heb 11:6; 5:8, 9; Lk 13:3; 2 Thes 1:7-9; Gal 3:27; 2 Tim 2:10 give insight into the God’s scheme of redemption.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, December 5, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, December 12, 2010

Front foyer: Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

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 singing class will meet **Sunday** 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.

Also, all men are invited to "Breakfast with the Preacher" on **Saturday, December 4th** at 8a.m. in the Annex. Don will be cooking! Please call Don at 214-995-4649, 972-790-8606, or sign up on the sheet in the front foyer so we can get a headcount.

OPEN HOUSE

The congregation is invited to Don & Joann's on **Sunday, December 12th** from 4p.m.-5:30p.m. for refreshments & fellowship.

NEW BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

The winter quarter will begin on Sunday, **December 5th & Wednesday, December 8th**.

LECTURESHIP

The Brown Trail Church of Christ will be hosting their annual lectureship on **January 9-12, 2011** on "Gleaning from the Book of Acts". Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible class will meet in the Annex on Tuesday, **December 7th** at 11:00 a.m. for a lesson by Beverly McKey on "Wait on the Lord" & lunch.

The ladies are invited to attend a baby shower honoring Sandy Hall on **Sunday, December 5th** from 2p.m.-4p.m. in the Annex. If you would like to contribute to a group gift, please see Beverly McKey. P.S. It's a boy!

Don't forget about any contributions you'd like to make to our Ladies' Day calendar with uplifting quotes, Bible scripture, etc. which are due by **December 31st**.

RESTORED

James Brown (Estelle's son) asked for prayers to be restored and to place his membership with us. His address is 310 W. 3rd St; Irving, 75060; phone: 972-254-2426.

OPEN FORUM

The Hawn Freeway Church of Christ is hosting an Open Forum entitled "Denominationalism in the Church of Christ?" on Sunday, **December 5th** at 1:30 p.m. See the flyer in the back foyer for more information.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Evelyn Armstrong** is in Las Colinas Medical, room #213 with a rapid heart rate.
- Marjorie Bennett** will receive a defibrillator on December 1st.
- Kati Mimms** suffers with severe headaches.
- Kellye Baker** (Billie Beverly's niece) underwent successful surgery in Baylor/Dallas for complications from Chron's Disease.
- Joe Dwyer** (Elizabeth Garrison's son) will see a surgeon this week for possible surgery on his wrist.
- Gail Hieronymus** (Mike Garrison's daughter) will undergo a new chemo treatment; the first did not work.
- Linda Lind** (Marcella Porter's sister) came through open heart surgery successfully.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- December 5: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- December 5: Singing class in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- December 7: Ladies' Bible Class at 11:00 a.m. & luncheon

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Kenny Mayer
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Thomas Rathbun
- Jerry Baker
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
- Hebrews 13:1-10

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Mike Garrison
- Dean Webb

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Thomas Rathbun
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-18

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Darrell Allen

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Bill Paschall
- John Mayer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Garl Latham

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	86	83	83	125
A.M. Worship	151	146	148	210
P.M. Worship	74	66	78	112
Wed. Class	75	60	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	19	-	29	30
Contribution	\$4765	\$4728	\$5241	\$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 – Stephenville, TX

Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India

Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching

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