

**January 11, 2010**

## **SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**January 17, 2010**

a.m. "*Pure in Heart*"

Scripture: Matthew 15:1-11

p.m. "*Ceaseless Prayer*"

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

### **Being Workers For The Lord**

Don Hatch

**The work of the Lord** is the most important work to be done on earth. There is a constant need for workers to labor in the harvest year after year. Recruitment must always be up and all vacancies filled. The preparation of labors is also constant. Without question a great part of this work for the Lord is making sure the next generation has the mental and moral tools to perform their tasks in the future. Observing any religion that is growing will manifest that they are making sure that the future will be taken care of by the brightest and best workers. Essentially the quality that is put into accomplishing a preparation of the next generation must never lack. Winning souls is not a physical work but a mental process, calling for all to exercise mental and moral powers. In the area of grounding workers there must be an aroused desire of the worker to realize the lost condition of the world around, guidance into understanding God's plan to save mankind and execution of the plan with increasing ambition.

**Muslims are building** new buildings and schools for themselves and their converts. Their children are educated in Islamic beliefs daily. It is little wonder that few of them are converted to Christianity. Christianity is the religion of Christ. It must not suffer from no recruits or classes to teach those who are converted. Whatever the impedance there might be Christianity must be better than all other religions on the earth. Christians cannot fail to prepare to stabilize themselves and create a body of believers for the future that will eclipse the present generation's desire for converting the lost to Jesus.

**Desires must be expressed** in actions. There are no exceptions to actions which arise from obedience. All teachings must seek to **change** the worldly views of the one being taught, affect a **change** in what is dearest to their heart and **change** the will of the one being converted. The means used to convert a soul into a believer who will act upon what is taught is the Gospel. Hearing and believing the Gospel and obeying its teachings impels the convert to act in accordance with the spiritual guidance found within the New Testament.

**To arouse an interest** in the mind of a prospect and bring him to obey the Gospel requires certain fundamentals. A prospect must have confidence in the teacher and the teacher must be sincere, earnest and competent to teach on the basic matter of Christianity. Frankness must characterize every action coupled with meekness. No ulterior motive can be held nor personal aggrandizement sought. The sole motive must be to present Jesus Christ and His teachings to an individual in the most favorable light possible. This ought to be the disposition of every personal worker. They should seek knowledge, grow into wisdom and use their talents to the glory of God. Filling their lives with virtue removes any contest over what kind of life a convert must live.

**Philip, the evangelist**, is a worthy example of a competent worker and illustrates the quality a work should possess to be successful. He had a “good report” which represented him as a man of character and consistency of conduct and faith. His own life was filled with the “Spirit” and he was asked to be a deacon in the Jerusalem church of Christ. This spiritual side expressed itself in unselfish readiness to serve at the peak of his abilities. He along with others was filled with “wisdom” from above. His discretion and sound judgment helped him seek practical solutions to both spiritual and mental difficulties. Wisdom always is facilitated by humility. In his busy activities he found the ways and means to accomplish the work of the Lord (Act 6; 8; 21).

**Preparation will lead to quality** of life. The appreciation of personal responsibilities is chief in the arsenal of a Christian. It is especially true in the matter of reaching out to another individual. Personal workers can be trained and grounded in the principles of Christian teachings. They can complete the command of “going” with boldness and confidence. Contending for the “faith” is a deliberate response to the Lord’s command to “bear much fruit”. Those who love people will seek their highest good. They have adopted towards their “neighbors” a sustainable and indestructible determination to show an indissoluble good in order that another might seek this character for them. No one develops a love for the lost short of study. Love for the Lord and truth can be carefully acquired and it will bring clear understanding.

**People will have different** personalities, education, family backgrounds, work and countless other facets which will have profound influence on how they can be reached with the Gospel. Paul said, “I have become all things to all men, that I may by all means save some” (1 Cor 9:22). He could not become a Jew again nor could he be lawless. Such conclusions are denied but he could use all lawful and virtuous means to teach the lost of the saving grace of Jesus Christ. A transformed life is the best example a Christian can offer. By showing a total dependence upon God is essential to any real work for the Lord. Properly combining desire, interest and preparation gives personal responsibility a boost to be able to “go ye into, all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation” (Mk 16:15, 16). Everyone can become a worker for the Lord. Time, effort, training and desire are built into the formulary. Christianity is the greatest “cause” known to man.

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

We sponsor Ian and Mabel McPherson in Devonport, Tasmania, Australia by gathering their U.S. financial support and placing it in their bank account. Then Ian can use a bank card to draw his funds when required. We appreciate Letitia Beverly for her help in making this happen. We also support them without prayers and concerns for their spiritual growth. I was encouraged a few years ago when I visited with the brethren there. The Mersey Bluff congregation is very small, but it has a preaching school and as you can read in the latest report from Ian, Ritchie is off to a good start.

### **BAPTISM!!**

We rejoice over the baptism of Hannah Sumpter, who was baptized Dec 2, 2009. She was taught and baptized by Ritchie Ares-Dona who is our recent graduate from Tasmania Bible School. Hannah is sixteen years old. She is the daughter of Dennis Sumpter who is a member here. She has just recently been attending church services after being in a denomination. Mabel and I are still having Bible studies each week with a woman called "Sam" and her daughter Natasha. They have been visiting regularly to all services since the studies began a couple of months ago. They were contacted through our follow up to the DVD distribution.

~Ian

After many years, Ian and Mabel are continuing to be good workers for the Lord. Australia has been blessed to have their Christian influence and their love for the Gospel. The Bible study they reported on is just one of many. Please remember their efforts, the preaching and teaching to the lost souls in Australia, in your prayers.

~Richard Renfro

"He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he."  
Proverbs 16:20

"...I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. All the daylong he dealeth graciously, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; And dwell for evermore. For Jehovah loveth justice, and forsaketh not his saints; They are preserved for ever: But the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein forever. The mouth of the righteous talketh of wisdom, and his tongue speaketh justice. The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. The wicked watcheth the righteous, and seeketh to slay him. Jehovah will not leave him in his hand, nor condemn him when he is judged. Wait for Jehovah, and keep his way, and he will exalt thee to inherit the land: When the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, And spreading himself like a green tree in its native soil. But one passed by, and, lo, he was not: Yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for there is a happy end to the man of peace. As for transgressors, they shall be destroyed together; the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of Jehovah; He is their stronghold in the time of trouble. And Jehovah helpeth them, and rescueth them; He rescueth them from the wicked, and saveth them, Because they have taken refuge in him" (Psm 37:25-40).

### PRAISE YE THE LORD!

“...And all that heard them laid them up in their heart, saying, what then shall this child be? For the hand of the Lord was with him. And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; for he hath visited and wrought redemption for his people, and hath raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David (As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets that have been from of old), salvation from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to show mercy towards, our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he spake unto Abraham our father, to grant unto us that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies should serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. Yea and thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Most High: For thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to make ready his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people in the remission of their sins, because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the dayspring from on high shall visit us, to shine upon them that sit in darkness and the shadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of peace. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing unto Israel” (Lk 1:66-80).

Zacharias and Elizabeth were an integral part of the unfolding of God’s plan which demonstrated that He had from the foundation of the world sought to bring salvation and announced it through the prophets. His intentions were to bring mercy and deliver mankind from sin and its ravages. Giving knowledge of salvation to His people through prophetic utterances assured them that the word of God was sure and steadfast. He in sundry manners and diverse ways made the fathers to know parts of His plan (Heb 1:1-5). He appointed Jesus Christ to be the great prophet (Deut 18:18; Acts 3:22-26). Time started with the creation of the world in six days and will end when God sends Jesus (Gen 1 & 2; 1 Thes 4:13-18). All will stand before the judgment seat and be judged according to the things they did in the body (2 Cor 5:1-10). The oral and written prophets uniquely made sure mankind would be without excuse (Rom 1:18-22). John the baptizer was the harbinger for Jesus Christ. John told his disciples that Jesus was the Lamb of God that would take away their sins. Moreover, Jesus was the Savior of the world (Jn 1:19-32).

Peter reminded Israel of the many blessing God had promised. One of His promises was to send them the Prince of Life. Faith in His name had made the cripple whole (Acts 3:1-26). Peter and John had faith that what Jesus had promised would be fulfilled. Jesus promised that the Apostles would have power from on high and would be witnesses of Him (Acts 1:5-10). Peter said, that God had by the mouth of the prophets spoken but now in these last days Jesus Christ was the prophet to whom all must listen or be utterly cut off from the people of God. All the prophets spoke of the Christian dispensation (Heb 3:1-19). We live in the last days (Heb 1:1-10). Preparing to meet God is of utmost importance.

The theme of God’s teaching is that Jesus is the great prophet to whom all must listen. Blessing God and praising Him will be how we come before Him with adoration and awe. Great is our God and marvelous are His ways. Praise God the Creator and Sustainer of all things. Both old and young praise His name for His glory is above the earth and heavens. He has blessed His children in magnanimous measures (Psm 148:1-14). Praise God!

## GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

### Sunday, January 17, 2010

**Front foyer:** Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth; Thomas Rathbun

### Sunday, January 24, 2010

**Front foyer:** Carol Swinney; Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

**Back foyer:** Robert & Betty Ruckman

## 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.

### 39'ers

The 39'ers will meet on Monday evening, **January 18<sup>th</sup>** for a meal & fellowship.

### CONGRATULATIONS

We're happy for **Janice Daniel** on her retirement last Friday after 25 years of service.

### NEW SONG BOOKS

There is some concern about our new song books; some have been damaged. Please help us maintain them.

### LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet on January 19 at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Vera Gleghorn on Joy and Goodness.

Also, please meet briefly in room #116 this Sunday evening (1/17) after worship to discuss 2010's Ladies' ½ Day.

### HELP NEEDED

Due to Ty leaving, we have an available opportunity for a man to join the group in rotation of taking communion to the shut-ins on Sunday. If you are interested, please see Darrell Allen.

### LECTURESHIPS

Shenandoah in San Antonio is hosting their annual lectureship on "Everlasting Priesthood: February 12-15. The Church of Christ at Rowlett will host "Strengthening Your Marriage" on Tuesday evenings January 6 through February 23. See the board in the back foyer for more details.

### THANK YOU

To the Ladies' Bible Class, thank you for remembering us with a gift bag. It's fun to make them, much more fun to receive. Every time you get an item out, fond memories come by, too. Thank you again for the bottom of our hearts. The Princes

Dear Ladies, I'm thinking of your thoughtfulness with special warmth and gratitude; I love you all, Pansy Yankey.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Ethel Hancock** (Don Hancock's mother) passed away in Odessa; services are being held today (1/11/10)

**Wanda Best** (Jean Kelly's sister) passed away last week; services were held on Saturday.

**Mrs. Vaughn** (former member Ron Baker's mother-in-law) passed away last week in California.

### NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Letitia Beverly** is out of the hospital again; could soon be onto a diagnosis.
- **Charlene Carroll** is in Baylor/Irving, room #421; she will soon be moved to the 5<sup>th</sup> floor rehab.
- **Kati Mimms** suffers again with severe headaches; the current medications are not working.
- **Everett Newton** is in Baylor/Dallas, room #619 needing blood & very ill from the chemo.
- **Leo Townsend** had a cat scan and is waiting for results.

### Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Evelyn Armstrong, BC & Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Tom & Billie Prince, Frances Seidmeyer, Roy Thomas, Joy Webb, Thomas West, the Wolfe's, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Mary DiPalma (missionary), Bob Winn (Roberta Price's brother).

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- January 24: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- January 24: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- February 12: Shenandoah Lectureship

**LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

**Front Table**

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Rob Farmer
- John Mayer

**Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Virgil LaFerney
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Richard Renfro
- Mike Batot
- Darrell Allen

**A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jerry Baker
- Matthew 15:1-11

**A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Garl Latham

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Denzil Myers
- Bill Paschall

**P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- John Mayer
- 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22

**P.M. SONG LEADER(S)**

- Jerry Baker (last song: Jerry McKey)

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun

**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	88	79	84	125
A.M. Worship	133	128	131	210
P.M. Worship	80	81	81	112
Wed. Class	77	75	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	-	35
Contribution	\$6603	\$5309	\$5956	\$5474

## **MISSIONS**

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India  
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  
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