

January 5, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

January 11, 2009

a.m. "*Fear Not*"

Scripture: Revelation 1:17-20

p.m. "*Walking with God*"

Scripture: Genesis 5:21-24

Thanksgiving and Supplication

Don Hatch

Loftiest terms extolling God arouse saint's hearts to gratitude and abundance of praise. Inspiring gifts and positive preferences are found confirmed in the New Testament. Calling attention to God as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ has a practical purpose of allowing believers to see the immense blessings of being a child of God. All regeneration, sanctification, reconciliation and redemption were accomplished through Christ's sacrifice upon the cross of Calvary (Eph 1:3-14).

The Father is a God of mercy and comfort (2 Cor 1:3-11); Eph 2:1-10). Via Christ every spiritual blessing flows down to Christians from our heavenly Father. Christ is the Son of God and He manifests love (1 Jn 3). Each Christian can draw near to this God appropriating magnificent blessings (Heb 4:14-16). God lavishes upon Christians "spiritual blessings". The intent is to demonstrate the high value God places on one being His child. As a wise and benevolent God He places emphasis on spiritual blessings, as well as physical. Indicated in this is that He does not withhold a single item from His rich repository of benefits wherein His purpose is well-known.

The world cannot surmise how the Christian prospers at the hand of God. In order to consider each separate item found in His blessings would take volumes. It is abundantly clear God's highest blessedness is found in His gift of salvation to fallen mankind. Christ as the representative and surety for all these blessings establishes that every outlet and total worth can never be fully understood, only appreciated by the redeemed. In return for such blessings the redeemed appear before the holy Father, without blemish and in love (Eph 1:4). This life is a powerful illumination to the world to persuade them of the blessings which the redeemed share at the hand of Almighty God. Salvation does not carry man half-way only; it brings him into a holy fellowship with God. Therefore saint's goals are to honor the Father through the Son, basing their actions upon what the Holy Spirit revealed in the sacred scriptures. Saints with an undiminished zeal for holy living emphasizes appearing before God in virtuous living. Nothing should suppress noble intents and actions. One who is fully determined to adopt God's ways is motivated by a supreme light (1 Jn 1:1-10; Jas 1:17, 18). It is a matter of will to

do His good pleasure to the praise of the glory of His ultimate purpose. Lives lived well are contributory and manifest excellence, treating God's ways as the only way to live. Their exaltation of God is genuine and they ascribe unto Him all praise and glory. Servants' hearts are in accord with the Maker's will. A necessary connection should be made and maintained with spiritual living. Attention ought to shift from earth to heaven wherein is concentrated the hopes and dreams of redemption. The Redeemer emancipated sinful man and placed enormous value on thanking God the Father, praising Him in prayer (Jn 17). He enhanced the glory of the wonderment of salvation by complete removal of the scarlet stain of sin according to the riches of the Father's grace (Isa 1:18). Jesus' blood was not a paltry sum but was the most lavish gift ever known to mankind.

Christians have to be aware of their inclusion in Christ and His benefits. Hearing and being attentive to the message of salvation is necessary to build lasting faith. God properly presents pertinently persistent, powerful proofs of His presence by proffering promises which are nothing less than pristine. The message of the "truth of the gospel of salvation" reveals man's condition and proclaims a means wherein man must be saved. Surrendered lives to the Lord are evidence of abiding trust. The first of our salvation is identified by a pledge or guarantee of glory to come (Eph 1:13). It brings about fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22). The earnest of the Spirit is a foretaste of the full inheritance (2 Cor 1:18-22). The time will come when the glorious resurrection of God's redeeming possession takes place and by virtue of this fact saints thank God praying always in every place (Jas 5:16).

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus unto all generations for ever and ever. Amen" (Eph 3:20, 21). It is immediately clear and fitting that appropriate expressions of gratitude and praise for all the blessings so generously poured out upon the church, as described in the New Testament, be offered to the Father. Paul said, "For this cause I bow my knee unto the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, that ye may be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inward man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; to the end that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be strong to apprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye may be filled unto all the fullness of God (Eph 3:14-19). Saints should have ardent homage and adoration and be ready to render to God because of His splendor, amazing attributes, power and blessings manifested in the church.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

We have heard and read the phrase in scripture about "*you are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden*" (Matt. 5:14). This was part of the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus said these words. Let us examine what this part of the passage means to us.

We see from this passage that light reveals and illuminates. Another passage that supports this thought is found in Luke 15:8 where the woman lost one coin. We are also reminded of Eph. 5:13 "*But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes*

manifest is light.” The story is told of a blind man who carried a lighted lantern wherever he went. When asked why he did such a thing, he replied “To keep others from stumbling over me.”

We also realize that light banishes darkness (Gen. 1:2-4). It is obvious that light and darkness do not dwell in the same place. The presence of a Christian will make a difference. We can make a difference around the coffee machine if our light is shining, therefore making a difference in the world around us.

Light also warms, comforts and cheers us (Eccl 11:7). Do you remember how comforting and assuring the light was when you heard something in the night and flipped the light switch? We are reminded of 1 Peter 5:7, Rom. 8:28 and Matt. 28:20.

Light also warns of us dangers. The blinking yellow light, the lighthouse, the buoy, all warn of dangers. As watchmen on the walls of Zion, let us warn men of the dangers of worldliness (1 John 2:15-17).

Yes, light does so many things for us physically and spiritually. May our light always shine before men in the year 2009.

~ Jerry McKey

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009

Confession

Don Hatch

“When the righteous triumph, there is great glory; but when the wicked rise, men hide themselves. He that covereth his transgressions shall not prosper: But whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall obtain mercy. Happy is the man that feareth alway; But he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief. As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear, so is a wicked ruler over a poor people. The prince that lacketh understanding is also a great oppressor; but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days. A man that is laden with the blood of any person shall flee unto the pit; let no man stay him. Whoso walketh uprightly shall be delivered; but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once” (Prov 28:12-18).

Every person, even the godliest occasionally commit sin. These sins are classified as “sins of omission or of commission”. “If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (1 Jn 1:8)

Upon sinning there is a remedy which waits, “but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us” (1 Jn 1:7-10).

What causes sin in the first place is a compulsion and frequently leads one to justify the practice of more sins. Often the hiding of sins creates a desperate illusion that it will not be known. Such is not the case because it is proverbial that our sins will find us out. What is not known to man is known to God. God’s words are sharper than a two edged sword discerning thought and intent of the heart (Heb 4:8-13).

Sin has an antidote. If we confess our sins God is faithful and just. Acknowledgement is the first step to recovery of what is lost by sinning. God is merciful and gracious (Heb 4:14-16). He seeks to save the lost and keep the saved from being lost. Acknowledgement of

specific circumstances in our lives is of great importance. If we openly and honestly confront sin and demonstrate repentance God promises to be magnanimous and gracious. We are assured that God can do no wrong (Deut 32:4). The condition required for forgiveness is confession of our sins. True to His promise God forgives wickedness and remembers it no more (Jer 31:34; Heb 8:12; 10:17). No longer desiring to sin plays a prominent role in this antidote for sin. If possible any wrong done should be righted and holiness commonplace in our lives.

The only life that holds any value is one lived for Jesus. "Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil 3:13,14). We are among the blessed when our sins are forgiven (Psm 32:1). Forgiveness is the act of canceling the debt, making the sinner holy restoring their fellowship with God (1 Jn 1:9; Isa 1:18).

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, January 11, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Max Melton

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, January 18, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor; Megan & Jamie Little

Back foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

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.

SINGING SESSION

The **Sunday afternoon** singing session will resume today at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

FT. WORTH LECTURES

The Annual Ft. Worth Lectures will be held at the Brown Trail Church of Christ **January 11-14, 2009**. See the bulletin board in the back foyer for details.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will begin on Tuesday, **January 13th** at 11:00 a.m. with a lesson by Beverly McKey followed by a soup, salad, & dessert lunch.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you so much to the **Ladies' Bible Class** for the holiday goodie bag so lovingly prepared for me & to Ilene for delivering it; I was so touched! I miss being with you, but I'm working on being more able to get out. Love, Frances LaFerney

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Bob Bingham** has been moved to Hearthstone, room, #51 in the hospice wing.
- Frances LaFerney** is at home with pneumonia.
- Ruth Graham** is also ill at home with a terrible cold.
- Nola Wolfe** has been ill at home (Ira was able to be with us in worship yesterday).
- JC Enlow** (21st Century Global Missions) took a fall & suffered internal injuries; he's in a Birmingham, AL hospital in critical condition.
- Valleska Parker** (friend of Darrell Allen) passed away & left two children: an 8- and an 11-year old.

Several members have been struggling with upper respiratory infections.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Todd Jonas (Charlene Carroll's grandson), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), George Ryon (Ann's son), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's neighbor), & our shut-ins.

The Final Home

How great and glorious it will be to cross that river dark and deep; to reach at last the gilded shore and dwell with God forevermore.

To walk on street out-shining gold and live with saints from days of old; to walk with Peter, Paul, and John while ages roll forever on.

To eat the fruit, the Tree of Life, while every tear is gently dried, to sit beside the river there and never know another care.

To join in rapture with the throng and praise the Lord in word and song; to walk with Him who died for me and live with God eternally.

How many blessings are in store for those who pass that narrow door, and on this earth walk paths so strait until they enter Heaven's gate.

A place, a land forever fair, how sweet 'twill be to worship there; how bright a hope each Christian owns, to call God's land his final home.

~ J.C. Choate

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- January 11: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- January 11: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- January 11-14: Ft. Worth Lectures
- January 13: Ladies' Bible Class in the Annex at 11:00 a.m.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Julie Roses

Sunday evening:

- Jamie Little

DEC. LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Harold Head
- Jeremy Hardegree

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham
Revelation 1:17-20

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Meyers
- Mike Batot

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Dean Webb
Genesis 5:21-24

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Stan Selby

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

· Mike Batot

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	89	87	87	125
A.M. Worship	150	146	146	210
P.M. Worship	80	84	84	112
Wed. Class	60	60	60	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	-	35
Contribution	\$4729	\$6251	\$6251	\$5410

MISSIONS

21st Century Global Missions

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching

Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India