

August 3, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 9, 2009

a.m. "*Spiritual Wrestling*"

Scripture: Genesis 32:22-32

p.m. Update on France by Roland Mohsen

Peace That Passes Understanding

Don Hatch

In a world that is relentlessly pursuing and never satisfied there is a restlessness which yearns for peace. Tranquility of the soul is not found in the riotously vulgar and loud modern world. Many with troubled lives are seeking a response to their needs in all kinds of substitutionary things. The more peace eludes them the more they substitute that which perishes with the using (Col 2:22). Untidy lives governed by unruly vices strip the essence of peace from the soul. No amount of cosmetics can cover a soul wherein there is no peace. Without God there is only alienation and hopelessness (Eph 2:18-23). Those who are disquieted and unhappy frequently blame others for their misery. Misery comes upon the soul and eats away at that which should nourish the soul to the point that accumulation of worldly pleasures are haunting memories of the expense of tinsel, vain and dashed hopes of finding peace in things.

Peace with God comes at great personal expense. To be reconciled to God took the death of Jesus Christ and our willingness to surrender to His will. Acquainting ourselves with God and His way brings peace and good comes to the soul which yields to God's ways (Job 22:21). Naught but good is to follow the soul who makes peace with God. There is no treasure in this world which compares to fellowship with God who can bestow peace to the reconciled soul (1 Jn 1:1-4; 2 Cor 5). All the stains of sin are removed and the soul is set free by the blood of Jesus. The elements which constitute peace are remission of sin, living a life as one who has overcome by faith the obstacles in life and committing the heart, soul and mind to loving God. It is not a fictions promise of peace when the blood of Jesus is applied to wash away sin (1 Pet 1:18-25). The cross reconciles sinners to God and makes peace. To be spiritually minded finds peace (Rom 8:6). Being in the kingdom of God brings peace (Rom 14:17). Following the ways of God makes peace and harmony. God the Father decreed peace, Jesus Christ purchased it with His death and the Holy Spirit gave the scriptures wherein peace is applied. Calvary guaranteed the obedient believer that peace has been granted. Through Christ our "peace" we have a covenant with God.

Laying aside fear, dread, suspicion and doubt only comes when the sinner embraces fully the plan of salvation. All obstacles are removed for the sinner to become a saint because Jesus paid it all for those who have been justified freely by Him (2 Cor 5:17-19). We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ wherein we have access by faith into grace. As a consequence, the grace of God has allowed the faithful to have joy, steadfastness, approvedness and hope (Rom 5:1-11).

When Moses was told to inaugurate the Passover the people were to put blood of a lamb on the door post and lintel (Ex 12:13). Nothing more than the blood would do. Jesus is the Lamb of God who was willing to allow His blood to stand between men and God (1 Tim 2:1-7). The Hebrews who had the blood on the lintel were safe and secure that the destroyer would "Passover" the house. Peace was assured. While the Egyptians went through the deep sorrow of losing their first born Israel found safety. The people had tranquility because they knew that God's eye was on the blood. Peace with God is secured by the shedding of Christ's blood. This is the substance of the gospel (Col 1:20).

Feelings do not interchange with facts. If one seeks peace, while guilty, through vague feelings they will find them a dead-end road. The consecration of heart, soul and will are the facts upon which one must build. The salvation brought to man by Jesus Christ is authentic and substantive and it firmly establishes a fellowship of the redeemed with God (Eph 2). Sinners are offered a means to redeem their souls by the blood of Jesus (Rom 5:1-10). The lost, guilty and those lacking reconciliation to God can be reconciled by the blood of Christ (2 Cor 5). By Christ on the cross, peace was made, the debt for sin was paid and no other price could pay the debt we owe (Acts 20:28; Rom 8:1-11).

The church was bidden peace by the Lord. After Jesus' resurrection he spoke "peace" to the disciples (Jn 20:19, 26). He assured His disciples that he had conquered and the adversary was vanquished (Heb 2:13-18). Jesus ascended to the right-hand of God which assured the disciples of perfect peace (Lk 24:50-52; Acts 2). The disciples went into a hostile world proclaiming peace (Phil 4:4-7). Christ was their peace in every circumstance and in the last hours of life their thoughts turned to Him who brought peace to their troubled souls (2 Tim 4:1-6). The wicked are destitute of this peace (Isa 57:21). Peace with God is impossible apart from faithfulness. Peace comes by believing that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Heb 11:6).

Peace within is because of a fellowship with God as a son or daughter (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). Peace is a product of a purified heart and soul guarded against relapse by prayer. What else but believing prayer can correct the feverish restlessness of an individual? Prayer is the counteraction to impending dangerous practices. It summons the individual to continue to be steadfast, unmovable and always abounding in the Lord (1 Cor 15:50-58). Prayer induces a marvelous influence.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Belt Line has again experienced the loss of loved ones this past week! It's never easy, but Christians should be better equipped than non-Christians. Psalm 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." In this age of chaos and change, what are some unchangeable truths to which we can hold?

The Bible Teaches:

- (1) Salvation from sin is found only in/through Jesus Christ. (Acts 4:12)
- (2) The church built by Christ is "THE SAVED". Jesus came to earth to "seek and save the lost". To accomplish His purpose, He built His church, purchasing it with His precious blood, apart from which there is no remission of sins. Those who are saved are added to Christ's church by the Lord Himself. Since the Lord adds the saved to His church and since He is the saviour of the church (His body) all who are saved are in Christ's spiritual body -- His church. (Luke 19:10, Matt. 16:18, Acts 2:47; 20:28, Eph. 5:23, Heb. 9:22)
- (3) The church you read about in the New Testament is not a Denomination; rather, it is the body of Christ over which Jesus is the head -- the only head. (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1: 18)
- (4) Salvation from sin requires submission to Christ as Saviour and to His plan for salvation. The Lord saves those who believe in Him as the Son of God, repent of their sins and are baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. (John 8:24, Acts 2:38 & Mark 16:15, 16)
- (5) Acceptable worship to God the Father must be in "spirit & truth" (John 4:23, 24). Worship and living should be to please Him, not ourselves!
- (6) True followers of Jesus are readily identified by their love for one another. (John 13:35) Genuine Christians are "ready unto every good work". (Tit. 3:1) Faithful disciples keep themselves "unspotted from the world" as they "visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction". (James 1:27) As the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world", God's children live "soberly, righteously and godly" in this present evil world". (Tit. 2:11, 12)
- (7) The Holy Scriptures inspired of God "furnish a man completely unto all good works" (2Tim. 3:16, 17). The Bible is the standard of authority; it is our guide for life. When respected and obeyed, God's written word will guide us to eternal life -- a home in heaven. (Acts 20:32)

Pray for the bereaved, the sick & shut-in, and those undergoing treatments, that God will bless them with his healing power. We should all meet with the saints at every opportunity!

Portions copied from the Magnolia Messenger

~Dean Webb

OUR GOD LISTENS

"Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion; and unto thee shall the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me: As for our transgressions, thou wilt forgive them. Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, Thy holy temple. By terrible things thou wilt answer us in righteousness, Oh God of our salvation, Thou that art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of them that are afar off upon the sea: Who by his strength sitteth fast the mountains, being girded about with might; Who stilleth the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples. They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it, Thou greatly enrichest it; the river of God is full of water: Thou providest them grain, when thou hast so prepared the earth. Thou waterest its furrows abundantly; Thou settlest the ridges thereof: Thou makest it soft with showers; Thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness; and the hills are girded with joy" (Psm 65:1-12).

Each life has a time when difficulties invade and help is desired. Overshadowed with a cloud that seems impenetrable it is lifted by knowing God cares and will help. The personal and intimate problems of life are not so overwhelming that God cannot help and provide direction. Perhaps problems are so personal and close that it seems unfitting or too embarrassing to share with anyone else. Our Father can help.

God will listen! Nothing is too small to escape His attention. No place too inaccessible, no load too heavy, that He who is the "God of all grace" and "the God of all comfort" will not grant a solution (1 Pet 5:10: 2 Cor 1:3-11). He listens and cares. "The Lord will hear when I call unto him" (Psm 4:1-4).

Individuals complain that others don't or won't listen to them; it is common with all walks of life; sometimes it seems we are all alone in our troubles. But "the LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth" (Psm 145:10-19). We can wait in silence with expectations for God who is our rock, salvation, strength, refuge and high tower. We can trust in Him and pour out our hearts before Him. (Psm 62:1-8).

Jesus our risen Saviour is at the right-hand of the Father as our mediator (1 Tim 2:1-6). Prayers that no human could hear God is indeed *there*. Our God is a God of mercy and grace (Heb 4:16). Our God is ever-present, willing to hear us as we pray and answers according to His divine will (Jas 5:13-18).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 9, 2009

Front foyer: Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sunday, August 16, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

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.

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

August 12th's lesson is entitled "**Publican and Pharisee**" from Luke 18:9-14 by Brother Pat McIntosh.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The final Summer Youth Series will be at the College Street Church of Christ Tuesday, **August 11ⁿ**. Please let the McKey's know if you plan to attend: (972)252-7075.

WITH SYMPATHY

Mary Lou Tibbetts passed away last Wednesday; services & interment were held last Saturday.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Brandon & Kenica Thomason in the loss of their infant daughter, **Kenley**. Services & interment were in Oklahoma last Friday. The Thomason's address is 9717 N. W. 10th St., #151; Oklahoma City, OK 73127. There is a card on the table in the front foyer if you'd like to sign & express your condolences.

Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband & Dessie's brother-in-law) also passed away last Wednesday; a memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, August 15th at 1:30 p.m. at Donnley's Funeral Home.

Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend) passed away this morning (8/3) from a long illness.

NEWS OF OUR ILL

•**Gwen Bingham** is now at HealthSouth Rehab; 3200 Matlock Rd.; room #315 B; Arlington, TX 76015; 817-468-4000.

•**Grady Fowler** cannot stand nor walk due to the stroke he endured.

•**Hank Henry** is in Baylor/Grapevine, room #451 undergoing a procedure today (8/3).

•**Tom Head** is now home recuperating.

•**Jack LaFerney** underwent back surgery last Thursday.

•**Lyda McAlister** was released & is now home resting.

•**Everett Newton** is having difficulty.

•**Tom Prince** had an injection in his back last week.

•**AC Prude** remains in HEB, room #422 following surgery for an external feeding tube.

•**Leo Townsend** will see a doctor this week about a spot on his pancreas.

•**Joy Webb** has been approved for limited movement.

•**Mary Wise** has been ill at home with bronchitis.

•**Linda Lynd** (Marcella Porter's sister) will have a pacemaker implanted this Wednesday.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Gardean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Joy Webb, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Louise Gierling (former member & Tom Gierling's mother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (son of missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- August 9: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 9: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- August 9: Guest speaker, Roland Mohsen (France)
- August 11: Summer Youth Series
- August 12: Summertime Preaching

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Glen Kelly

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Virgil LaFerney
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Marvin Brown
- Jerry Baker

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Ty Harvey
Genesis 32:22-32

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Myers
- Glen Kelly

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
TBA

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

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 | 92 | 85 | 93 | 125 |
| A.M. Worship | 162 | 148 | 156 | 210 |
| P.M. Worship | 83 | 83 | 86 | 112 |
| Wed. Class | 81 | 98 | 80 | 110 |
| Ladies Bible Class | - | - | 30 | 35 |
| Contribution | \$4761 | \$5917 | \$5382 | \$5474 |

MISSIONS

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
Willie 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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India