

June 30, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

July 6, 2008

a.m. *"Right Hand of God"*

Scripture: Acts 2:25-36

p.m. *"Asleep in Jesus"*

Scripture: 1 Thes. 4:13-18

The Lord's Day

Don Hatch

The religious importance of the first day for the week is the conviction that Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week. Christ manifested Himself to the disciples and the conclusion is eminently worthy to be drawn that His Apostles assured the church He was actually alive and had ascended to the right hand of God (Acts 2). Jesus being alive after the crucifixion created faith in a resurrection of the redeemed (Rom 6:1-11). Jesus being "Lord of lords and King of kings", the first day of the week became known to the Christians as "the Lord's Day" (Rev 19:16). Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead (Rom 1:1-5). Every first day of the week was transformed into a day of great religious importance.

As the Old Testament was taken out of the way and nailed to the cross of Jesus the Sabbath day was replaced by the "First Day of the Week" (Col 2:14). Sending of the Holy Spirit to the disciples on the "First Day of the Week" and the church commencing placed a stamp of importance to this unique day (Acts 2). It sets apart Christian fellowship and worship as exclusive from all other world religions. There is no greater historical fact proving Christianity than the observance of an intermission from toil with special religious expression in worship constantly practiced by Christians. Slowly the secular world adopted a prohibition of working on "Sunday". Farmers, business, government and others slowly adopted a restriction to activities on the "first day of the week". What is of a special interest is that no frivolous practices of recreation or public sporting events were joined. Secular businesses were restricted and the state allowed soldiers and civilians time to worship. From the beginning Christians made all preparations to find a means to worship on "the Lord's Day". Like a tidal wave the souls redeemed by the blood of Jesus moved the inclination, interest and desires of nations to have a day of worship. The unconditional devotion to Jesus as Lord explained the common delight in worship which the saints felt. The need for a set day to render adoration to God was deeply embedded into the spiritual nature of Christians. The eternal constitution of the soul of man yearned to see a day focused on God and His divinity. To observe a day in any worthy sense, one must enter into it in the spirit. The true worth of Sunday depends on seeking an opportunity with the hope of rising above the fray of the world, entering into an eternal link with God. Pleasures and hardships, sorrow or joy must be used to teach us that seeking God and finding Him merciful, gracious and loving allays all the anxieties encountered. Worship is a time when souls engage in adoration and praise of God for all blessings. Worship is homage to God.

Being in the spirit on the Lord's Day is proportionate to what one puts into the activities. One cannot make the Lord's Day into a forced reverence, for such is not reverence. There is no dreariness like lonesomeness and no distraction greater than irreverence in the time of worship. Hence, the Lord's Day would be useless if the one observing it was not in the spirit seeking the rich and just proportion of blessings when offering their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God which is their spiritual service (Rom 12:1-5). When in the spirit on the Lord's Day a new sphere of spiritual living awaits. The spirit of the redeemed engages with others in a free exchange of love, devotion and worship. At the end of a long life one can look back at a prized state of affairs having been nurtured and loved by those of like precious faith. The employment of various items in worship gives spiritual blessings wherein the spiritually minded find a profound peace. As a set day for the legacy left by the aged to the younger it shapes and molds the heart, soul and mind. Through the week each goes into the valley of cares and needs a time to refresh. Becoming engrossed in that which blesses others and glorifies God unwaveringly strengthens the inner being and steadies one's eye on the course to eternity. The personal loyalty to Christ manifests that the participant knows that there is nothing lost when keeping the Lord's Day and something lost by not keeping it.

Instinctively Christians know the immeasurable deepening of their roots and spiritual growth as the years of worship accumulate. Many seemingly strong trees are blown over in the storms of life because their roots only ran along the surface. Being steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the Lord is laborious (1 Cor 15:50-58). The Lord's Day provides the time to set the roots deep (Eph 3:17).

The Lord and His Lordship properly signify Jesus has power, authority and ownership of His church. From the outset of Jesus' ministry He was called Lord. Being the representative of the Father Jesus acquired the title Lord (Matt 7:21, 22; 9:38; 22:41-45; Mk 5:19; Lk 19:31; Jn 13:3). In His final days with the disciples Thomas said, "my Lord and my God" identifying Him as divine (Jn 20:28). In the first sermon after Jesus' ascension Peter stated that the Father had made Jesus "Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). The significance of Jesus being Lord is that He has supreme authority in heaven and on earth (Matt 28:18-20). It is therefore little wonder that the church honored Jesus on the first day of the week by worshiping God the Father through Him (Jn 14:1-5). John worshipped in spirit and truth on the Lord's Day (Rev 1:10). The Lord's Day continues to have great importance.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Josh 24:15: "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

It seems the people of old faced some of the same situations we are challenged with today. Only a few among many people chose to serve God. Joshua and his family didn't choose to be like others about them. He took a firm stand and said "as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD". We must follow this good example!

We grow stronger when we are challenged, when things are difficult, and when we do not surrender to demanding situations. When we are faced with family or financial problems, illness, work assignments or any condition that requires us to buckle down and face reality, we become stronger, and Christians also grow stronger in their trust and faith in God. We have no one else to look for strength and courage to guide us through trying times except our God. He is faithful to us, and He will never leave us nor forsake us. If there is a separation between us and God, we are the ones that move away from God and cause it.

Our Father in Heaven knows all about us; the Bible tells us that He counts the hairs on our heads (Matthew 10:30). We should never doubt that God is aware of all the daily issues with which we are faced. Most family fathers are pleased to see their children rise to any occasion. Our Father in Heaven is pleased whenever his children rise and face difficult situations and stand uprightly to the challenges of life on a daily basis. We must not give up and take the easy way out, ever!

If we accept our challenges and do our very best, we know that Our God will be pleased with us. When we do His will, keep His commandments, we can know that we have met the ultimate challenge in this world. "But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).

Do not forsake the assembling of yourselves together when the saints meet! Everyone has a place at Belt Line, everyone that is able should be in attendance (present). "Have a great week serving God". Keep in your prayers our sick and shut-ins!

~Dean Webb

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

FAMILY VALUES

Every society needs to stress family affection. The Bible reminds the family to train up the child in the way they should go (Prov 22:6). It is not sufficient to provide food, clothing and shelter without love. The warm and tender attachments found in the home stabilize a community. Children learn to honor father and mother as wise parents invest time in nurturing the child. Astute parents realize that the first engagement a child has with authority and order is in the home. A heritage of sound character builds traits in the child wherein there is an irrevocable law of moral wellbeing which grows. The moral function of character develops by observation and nurturing of the parent in the home.

One of the greatest aids to parents is a good Sunday and Wednesday Bible Class for the child. Visit our weekly classes with your child.

~Don Hatch; article to appear in the July 4, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

Tuesday Evenings 7pm - 9pm

Theme: Truths

Life Lessons for the iPod Generation

Meals are served

Leave the building at 5:30 p.m.

BRING A FRIEND!

July 1	Birdville, Haltom City	iStand
July 8	Grandview	iCan
July 15	Collyville	iPray
July 22	Northwest, Ft. Worth	iBow
July 29	W. Mansfield, Lake Dallas	iServe
Aug 5	Highland, Lewisville	iTell
Aug 12	College St., Waxahachie	iWill

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, July 6, 2008

Front foyer: Grady & BC Fowler; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

Sunday, July 13, 2008

Front foyer: JC & Dessie Ross; Max Melton

Back foyer: Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

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.

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Our theme this year is “**Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining**”. Next week’s Wednesday evening worship, **July 9th**, will be a lesson entitled “There Is One Body” brought to us by Brother Pat McIntosh. The scripture reference is Colossians 1:9-18.

CAMPERS

Please bring a lunch & meet in the Annex after morning worship to gather for a ride to camp. We’ll leave around noon.

WITH SYMPATHY

Brother Paul Guisinger passed away early Saturday morning; services will be held at Brown’s Funeral Home tomorrow (7/1) at 10am.

WEDDING SHOWER

There will be a wedding shower honoring Justin Hardegree & his bride-elect, Annelise Garner on **Sunday, July 13th** from 2pm-4pm in the Annex. Their chosen colors are green & yellow; they are registered at Target & Bed, Bath, & Beyond. If you are interested in contributing to a group gift, please see Beverly McKey.

JULY BULLETIN SCHEDULE

In order to remain in compliance with the Post Office, there will not be a bulletin published for the 1st three weeks of July. Please call Don or one of the Elders with a concern, or leave a note in the Secretary’s box. Thank you!

THOSE TO SERVE IN JULY

Lord’s table (front): Dorris Walker, Marvin Brown, Grady Fowler, Mike Garrison, Purman Cofer, Brandon Thomason, Jerry Baker, Brandon Howard

(back): JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Roy Martin, Bobby Bowen, Jeremy Hardegree, Derrol Allen, Keith Vaughn

p.m. Robert Ruckman; Bill Paschall

Card pickup: a.m. Cole Howard, Curtis Vaughan; p.m. Scot Allen; Kenny Mayer

Contribution Counters: John Mayer; Rob Farmer

Communion Preparers: Charles & Karen Cornish

THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone for the cards & well wishes concerning my birthday; your kindness is appreciated. Mike Batot

Thank you to my brothers & sisters in Christ for the calls, cards, & prayers during the time of my accident & recovery. Jane Easter

WEDDING BELLS

Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Garner request the honor of your presence at the marriage of their daughter Annelise Kathleen to Justin Paul Hardegree son of Mr. and Mrs. Derrol Allen Saturday, the nineteenth of July Two thousand and eight at two o'clock in the afternoon Plymouth Park Church of Christ.

39ers

There is a game night scheduled in the Annex for this **Friday, July 4th** at 5:00 p.m. for the 39ers, and anyone else who would like to come. Bring your favorite games & picnic-type food & join the fun.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- √**Mary Lou Tibbetts** was released & sent home with oxygen.
- √**Paul Batot** (Mike's dad) is in Las Colinas Medical following hip replacement surgery.
- √**Barbara Coop** has declined again & is back in ICU at Medical City.
- √**Tracye Eppler** (Dona Head's sister) underwent thyroid surgery; tests show NO cancer!
- √John Mayer's **grandmother of Cuero, TX** will be under hospice care soon.
- √**The Mohsens** (missionaries in France) are undergoing tests & various other health issues.
- √**Linda Nichols** (Tim McAlister's mother-in-law) is not doing well.
- √**Brother Paul** (missionary in India) is still weak.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- July 4: 39ers in Annex at 5pm
- July 6: Cisco Junior Youth Camp; leave at noon from Annex
- July 8: Summer Youth Series at Grandview Church of Christ
- July 9: Wed. Night Summertime Preaching; Pat McIntosh
- July 13: Wedding shower for Hardegree/Garner in Annex, 2-4pm
- July 19: Hardegree & Garner wedding; Plymouth Park Church of Christ

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Melissa Allen

Sunday evening:

- Jamie Little

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Doris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Grady Fowler
- Mike Garrison
- Purman Cofer
- Brandon Thomason
- Jerry Baker
- Brandon Howard

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Roy Martin
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Derrol Allen
- Keith Vaughn

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- John Mayer
- Stan Selby

SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
Acts 2:25-36

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Tom Prince
- Denzil Myers

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

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	91	90	96	125
A.M. Worship	147	165	168	210
P.M. Worship	104	89	93	112
Wed. Class	83	90	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$6408	\$5115	\$5339	\$5400

MISSIONS

- 21st Century Global Missions
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India
- 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
- 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