

November 1, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 7, 2010

a.m. *"Love & Law Combining"*

Scripture: Romans 13:8-10

p.m. *"Hearsay & Experience"*

Scripture: Job 43:1-6

Being Persistent and Dependable

Don Hatch

The books of I & II Samuel are divine commentary on providence and are replete with illustrations wherein all things work together for good to them that love the Lord (Rom 8:28). From the promise of a son to Hannah to the inner workings of the kings of Israel, God employs His distinctive knowledge of the future to take precautionary actions to see His will is fulfilled eventually. Men everywhere need to have a knowledge and conviction that they are dependent upon God and responsible to Him. Preparation in advance gives a model of prudent, guardianship and control exercised by divinity.

The dependable are persistent. Hannah's prayer is a lesson about dealing tirelessly with hopes and aspirations. Unlike so many prayers, hers were not feeble or sporadic but humble, sincere and persistent. God honored her with a son and made special arrangements for his education at the side of Eli, the High Priest. Hannah followed her son's career and provided timely articles needed with great interest and encouragement. The child was dedicated to God all the days of his life. The power of persistent prayers, offered with the proper attitudes, avail much (Jas 5:16, 17). There must be a crucial and consistent child-parent relationship where choices are made to mold the child into a godly individual with a spiritual goal for every stage of life.

It takes time and persistence to become a spokesman for God. Being a spokesman for God is the greatest vocation known to man. Samuel became the greatest personality, bridging the time from Moses to David. Timely attention to Samuel's life, development and devotion to service paid huge dividends. Willing to give the best spiritual training and resources to a child is costly, but it removes any idea of fate or luck. God rules in the affairs of mankind by accomplishing His will and can urge a youth to spiritual goals. The life, with determination to have God lead, it will go through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil (Psm 23:6).

Persistence allows the individual to learn that there must be short and long term accomplishments. God can clearly help an individual accomplish His purpose on the earth. Numbers of illustrations are seen in Samuel, Saul, David and others' lives. The conquering of obstacles is more than mere human courage. The importance of relying on divine strength

must never be underestimated. A classic statement by David was, "I come to thee in the name of Jehovah of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel..." (1 Sam 17:41-49). "Whatsoever ye do, in word or in deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" (Col 3:17).

Dependable servants of God persistently prepare to defend the faith. It is Christ-like to defend the faith in an uncompromising manner; to point the way and put gainsayers in a "logical dilemma". Defending against a false position, error or purposefully leading astray is wherein the teacher of truth manifests that a spiritual life has been led. God gave the faithful a responsibility to "contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3). It should be obvious to those who trust in the providence of God that years of study is the "shadow-boxing" and "buffeting of ourselves wherein we exercise self-control in all things" before we engage in the war for souls (1 Cor 9:17-27). "The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but mighty before God to the casting down of strongholds (casting down reasoning-margin ASV)...and every high things that is exalted against the knowledge of God" (2 Cor 10:4-7). The providence of God has provided a word which "is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of the soul and spirit ...and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Heb 4:11-13). "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to all people" (Prov 14:34). God has said, "...them that honor me I will honor, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed" (1 Sam 2:30).

Persistency sees the purpose of giving attention to details in God's word. When an action is taken and has the authority of the Scriptures it clearly affirms the basic truth, "...man's plans in religion always fail, while God's plans are endlessly succeeding." King Saul was defeated by his own decision to supersede the will of God, capturing Agag and taking animals for sacrifice. Samuel said, "...Hath Jehovah as great delight in burnt-offerings and sacrifices as in obeying the voice of Jehovah? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as idolatry and teraphim. Because thou has rejected the word of Jehovah, he hath also rejected thee from being king" (1 Sam 15:17-23). Saul's lack of persistency and dependability was costly.

To live for God says a great deal about trust. Being willing to faithfully follow Jesus Christ brings peace that the world will never know (Phil 4:1-5). When in Christ we are justified from sin, have peace with God, have access by faith into His grace; thus, we are allowed to pass through all tribulations and remain steadfast, approved of by God and have a hope that does not put us to shame (Rom 5:1-11). The "**divine commentary**" for the 21st century is the **faithful Christian**". To hear God say "Well done thou good and faithful servant..." is what the persistent and dependable want to hear (Mat 25:14-30).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

I would like to share this article with you that I wrote for the **World Evangelism** magazine, Global Harvest. It is a young publication that supplements their 'Voice of Truth International' books.

Mission Printing, Inc., located in Arlington, Texas, is a non-profit organization that prints and distributes gospel tracts throughout the world for free. We are a 'work of the churches of

Christ.' God has blessed us for over thirty years with hardworking Christian volunteers and generous contributors who want to supply the world with "World Evangelism by the Printed Page." We have two full time personnel and hundreds of volunteers who do thousands of tasks. A dozen congregations are now involved in collating and stapling our material in their own buildings. Mission Printing does not sell anything; we exist as God blesses us with dedicated contributors to continue His work of spreading the gospel. These tracts are especially important for missionaries to utilize with their preaching and studying with different people. We print, only in English, approximately eighty individual tracts targeting many different biblical topics explaining 'how to become a Christian' to 'living the Christian life.' Please go to our webpage <http://www.missionprinting.us/> to view the entire tracts and learn all about us. Each year we print millions of tracts and ship them to individuals in many different countries. Our process begins with the Trustees and the Director examining and reviewing the individual tract for doctrinal soundness and applicability for our readers. The tract is proofed for grammar and spelling as well as for correct scriptural references. Then we convert it to a software program that allows us to burn a printing plate for the offset printer. Volunteers proof, print, fold, collate, staple, trim, box and ship the tracts to their destinations. Also we utilize our booklet maker that collates, staples, folds and trims our smaller tracts at more than 2,500 per hour. Last year we began shipping the majority of our material via ocean containers (\$0.30 per pound) and saving \$100,000 versus the US Mail costs (\$3.00 per pound). Now we are able to ship more than twice as many tracts as last year.

Ghana received 32,000 pounds of tracts (app. 640,000 tracts) in January and Nigeria received 40,000 pounds (app. 800,000 tracts) in August. Another 30,000 pounds (app. 600,000 tracts) are due to arrive in Ghana, November 20, 2010. We are now working on another 40,000 pounds for Nigeria. **World Evangelism** was able to ship many of their materials with our last shipment to Ghana. They are planning to ship material on our next shipment to Nigeria in February. A key to successful ocean container shipping is finding a volunteer Distribution Manager in the proposed country who is willing to distribute the tracts quickly to those who are requesting them. This takes a person with great experience in the local area churches and who has many contacts that can help him complete the task. The Distribution Manager usually does some follow-up work with each recipient. Preaching school directors make great Distribution Managers because they have many students who need these tools to start their preaching careers and they have an eagerness to spread the gospel. The most difficult task of shipping via ocean container is plowing through all the government 'red tape' of each country's requirements for customs clearance. Some countries will not accept the 'tax free' material without a large tax charge or government fee. As a volunteer Vice-president of Mission Printing, I traveled to Ghana last year to see the conditions for our shipment to Brother Willie Gley. I plan to go to South Africa in January, Lord willing, to discuss with Brother Rohan Jones about being our Distribution Manager and explore the conditions for our possible shipment to Cape Town. One of our Trustees, Brother Tom Sarratt, Jr. has offered to pay my airfare with his air miles. Monday John Akpakpan is one of our Distribution Managers in Nigeria and Brother Reuben Egwu is another one. I have two more brothers in Nigeria who are waiting on their opportunity to receive an ocean container as well. Mission Printing receives requests daily from around the world via email, letter or phone for religious tracts. We pray that God will bless us with more donors who will enable us to send at least four ocean containers (about 150,000 pounds) per year. This would give the world a free gift of about 3,000,000 gospel tracts a year to learn how to live for Jesus. Thanks to Betty Choate with

World Evangelism for asking me to write this article. May God bless the efforts of the brotherhood as we spread the gospel. (submitted by Richard Renfro)

Voice of Truth International is a booklet published quarterly and mailed around the world.

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 7, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, November 14, 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.

NEW ARRIVALS

New issues of the Christian Courier & Spiritual Sword are available in the front foyer.

39'ers

Please see the signup sheet on the table in the front foyer for the Holiday meal to be served at the November 15th 39'er gathering.

FALL BACK

Be sure to set your clocks back one hour Saturday night for Daylight Savings Time.

LADIES

Ladies' class will meet **Tuesday, November 9th** at 9:30 a.m. with the lesson by Letitia Beverly on "She Stretches Out Her Hand".

We will be compiling information for a calendar for Ladies' Half Day. Please submit Bible verses or devotional thoughts that you would like to be included; you may leave them in the secretary's box located in either foyer. Deadline for submission is December 31st.

TEEN WORK DAY

The Teens have scheduled **Saturday, November 13th** for a work day; please see Darrell Allen or John Mayer if you have anything you'd like done around the house.

THOSE TO SERVE IN NOVEMBER

Lord's table (front): Purman Cofer, Bill Matthews, John Mayer, Glen Kelly, Brandon Howard, Marvin Brown, Mike Garrison, Dorris Walker **(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Derrol Allen, Bill Paschall, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Roy Martin, Bobby England

p.m. Thomas Rathbun, Robert Ruckman

Card pickup: a.m. Cole Howard; Ethan Howard **p.m.** Scot Allen, Alex Mayer

Contribution Counters: John Mayer, Bobby England

Communion Preparers: Garl & Michele Latham

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christ's Haven grocery run.

WITH SYMPATHY

Judy Hancock passed away last night (10/31); details pending at this time.

Dortha Flynn (Gladys Barnes' sister) passed away last week in Abilene.

NEWS OF THE SICK

·**Ruth Graham** is in Baylor/Irving, rehab room #584; she is scheduled to go home this Friday.

·**Frances LaFerney** is having a port installed this Friday.

·**Beverly McKey** is ill at home.

·**Tommy Tarlton** (friend of the Henry's) has been diagnosed with 3rd stage cancer.

·**John Williams** is in Baylor in Dallas.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- November 7: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- November 7: Singing class in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- November 9: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m.

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Brandon Howard
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
- Romans 13:8-10

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Mathews
- Mike Garrison

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Mike Batot
- Job 43:1-6

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Darrell Allen

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

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	76	97	84	125
A.M. Worship	145	141	148	210
P.M. Worship	72	73	77	112
Wed. Class	72	76	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	23	23	29	30
Contribution	\$3891	\$6396	\$5254	\$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