

September 15, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

September 21, 2008

a.m. "Deliverance"

Scripture: Judges 3:26-30

p.m. "Cleansed Conscience"

Scripture: Hebrews 9:11-15

The Mystery Of Godliness

Don Hatch

The immeasurable greatness of Christ is the subject of an early hymn. The theme was familiar to the church and its message exalts, with passion, the scheme of redemption which God had worked out through Christ (1 Tim 3:14-16).

"...And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; he who was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached among the nations, believed on in the world, received up in glory (1 Tim 3:14-16)

There are six items which are important to the song. Jesus was manifested in the flesh, vindicated in the spirit, seen of angels, heralded among the nations, believed on in the world and was taken to glory. The hymn portrays the humanity of Jesus and his victory, the angelic host and the reception of the gospel among the nations. The world had been turned upside down and Jesus had ascended to the right of the Father. Herein lays a mystery, a paradox, a revelation of God's exclusive plan for the redemption of man. The explanation of the bounty of grace and the abundant blessings bestowed upon mankind became a song which stirred the hearts of the first century Christian. The Gospel is a revelation of righteousness, piety, reverence, and portrays a religious life lived out to exalt God. God's revelation, Jesus Christ, magnified what the prophets had spoken (Heb 1:1-5). The song was of redeeming grace, atonement and a system of worship wherein God was exalted. Man displayed his inner feelings and love for God's exalted gift, Jesus Christ.

Clauses in the song reveal a portrait of Jesus Christ, "he was manifest in the flesh". Here is the witness of the nature of the Lord Jesus Christ; He was God

with us, all man, all God. Jesus existed as God before His birth as man (Matt 1:18-20; Jn 1:1-17; Phil 2:1-11). The word manifested is opposed to the concept of nonexistence; it takes for granted a previous existence of the manifested being. Manifestation implies a previous existence of the person being manifested and identifies the one who came to die for the sins of mankind.

Jesus of Nazareth lived a life of sinlessness, in His death He justified man by his blood and justified the Father's confidence in Him. Jesus was manifested as a member of the human family and was also God with us. His life demonstrated His loving kindness, justice, veracity and was not partial or in piecemeal, but lived in integrity and complete righteousness. A whole range of holy attributes were seen, witnessed by God, men and the angelic host. In Christ was the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Col 2:9).

The perfect righteousness of Jesus proclaims that He was justified in the spirit. Christ's human nature consisted of the body, soul and spirit. The intensity with which Jesus lived a spiritually moral life and the intense suffering He endured manifested His will to do the Father's divine will. No other being has ever lived a life free from sin. His divine service spoke volumes of His control over the physical man. No one has yet discovered a word that Jesus ought not to have said or suggested a better word. No action fell short of the highest moral standards. He surprised all by His perfection. They were amazed at His goodness. He was incomparably better than any other human being had ever been. There was never a false step, but always a progression to higher spiritual pronouncement. His life transcended earth's bounds and demonstrated a heavenly relationship with divinity.

Angels welcomed His birth, ministered to Him following His temptation, in the hour of His trial, guarded His tomb and spoke of His ascension to the right hand of the Father. Those who desired to look into Christ were satisfied. When the Son emptied Himself of Godhood they could bear witness to the greatest gift known on earth and in heaven.

The revelation of Jesus' life, death, burial, resurrection and ascension stressed that without respect to national distinction all could be reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus and their obedience. Nations rejoiced!

Jesus completed His earthly sojourn sharing the common infirmities and restrictions of all flesh. He was hungry, thirsted and endured sorrow. He passed through daily ordeals stainless and blameless. Searched by the multitude with curious and critical eyes He issued a confident challenge, "who convicteth me of sin"? He was never burdened with guilt. Stung by moral conflict around Him, he never became a part of it. He prayed, not with contrition for His own sins, but for the sins of others. Before God and man He lived a life maintaining His moral rectitude unflinching to the last. There were

no words of self-consternation, lamentation for failure over corruption and no sigh for a closer walk with the Father. He never made light of sin, but put heaven's light on sin. No soul was ever so sensitive to the taint of impurity; no heart was ever so burdened by the world's guilt. He rebuked and inspired. His spotless life was a revelation of the beauty of holiness and how hideous was sin. His enemies discovered that He mingled with the sinner, conversed with them of sin, righteousness and judgment to come. The world could not conceive of the holiness of Jesus. A crushing rejoinder to His critics is that the world believed on Him. This Jesus, Son of God, Son of man, Saviour, Brother, Master, Lord and friend revealed the mystery of godliness. Let the church sing of the Lamb of God!

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Our thanks to Brother Hatch for his work Sunday. Don preached two wonderful sermons we all need to study, meditate upon, review and apply to our daily living. We are truly blessed at Belt Line Road with superior teaching of God's Word by our wonderful teachers, and sound Gospel preaching from the pulpit. If for some reason you haven't been attending regularly and could be...you are missing out on some very important opportunities.

John 14:23...Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word; my father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him".

A virtuous home...in the home, virtues such as love, compassion, honesty, truthfulness, kindness, and generosity are mostly learned by example. Families living together develop and learn by what they see around them; children are especially quick to imitate the behavior of their parents or older siblings. And, the old saying, "Do what I say, not as I do" usually does not have a long-term effect on anyone.

A home can be described as a place where someone lives and it doesn't matter if it consists of one person or ten. A house is just a building, but a home is made up of loving, caring, virtuous people. Reading the Bible, trusting in God, keeping His commandments, and praying are the best ways to instill the virtues within the home that are pleasing to God. Home is a place where the presence of the Lord should always be with us.

We are richly blessed at Belt Line to have a good number of families with young children. We want these families to know how important they are to the future of Belt Line's growth and longevity. We look forward to a long period of growth at Belt Line by each one of our young people becoming strong Christian leaders. We pray that they can keep the family united and working together, keeping true to God's Word.

Attendance is very important to every Christian that can possibly attend the services. The scripture Hebrews 10:23-25 was not written just to fill space in the Bible.

Pray for our sick and shut-ins!

~ Dean Webb

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Come Unto Me

“Ye shall find rest unto your soul” were words spoken by Jesus (Mat 11:28-30). Two painters presented portraits of the concept of rest. One chose a scene of stillness and a lone lake among mountains. The second drew a storm with lightning flashing in all directions where a tree bent in the bluster, as the rain pummeled it. At a fork in the branches, where the torrent sprayed, was a robin on its nest. The first was a picture of stagnation; the latter was of “rest”.

Rest always has two elements— energy and tranquility in the turbulence of life. Rest is fearlessness in the face of fearfulness. One cannot follow the path of duty without danger. Jesus bids all to come unto Him and experience faith wherein is rest for the soul. Renouncing self-will and deliberately following Christ exposes all to a life where rest is found in the storm. Worship with us and find how to be at “rest” in your soul.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the September 18, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

The Church

When Jesus built His church upon the foundational rock that He is the Son of God (Matthew 16:18) it was an “undenominational” fellowship. Here are some characteristics of that church, which, if we will imitate them, will help us be “undenominational” Christians today:

1. **Christ’s church accepted the New Testament as final authority.** *“All Scripture is...profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness”* (2 Timothy 3:16). Man-made traditions only divide believers and have no place in the Lord’s plan.
2. **Christ’s church opposed every practice and doctrine not found in the Word of God.** Beware of those who teach *“strange and diverse teachings”* (Hebrews 13:9).
3. **Christ’s church worshiped according to the New Testament pattern.** *“Follow the pattern of the sound words...”* (2 Timothy 1: 13, 14).
4. **Christ’s church required nothing for church membership other than what God Himself required.** When we repent and are baptized, God adds us to His church (Acts 2:38-47). There should be no other requirements for church membership! God sees to it that the saved are added to His church the moment their sins are forgiven. Anything more than this is a denominational requirement.

~ David Tarbet; minister of the White Rock Church of Christ in Dallas, TX

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, September 21, 2008

Front foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price, Thomas Rathbun, Max Melton

Back foyer: Jamie & Megan Little

Sunday, September 28, 2008

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

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 be held **this Sunday** at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

TEACHER APPRECIATION BANQUET

Just two more Saturdays until time for the Bible Teacher Appreciation Banquet: **Saturday, September 27th from 6pm-8pm** in the Annex. Dinner will be provided, so be sure to RSVP to the church office **by Thursday, September 25th**.

WITH SYMPATHY

Calvin Jacobs (Harold Keller's cousin) passed away last Friday; services will be in Denison on Thursday.

LADIES

The Sunday afternoon Ladies' Class will meet **September 21st** in room #107 at 4:45 p.m.

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **September 23rd** at 9:30 a.m.

Also, anyone interested in working on bears, please remain after class on **September 23rd**.

THANK YOU

We wish to thank all of you for the prayers, cards, words of love and encouragement, and offers of help. We dearly love all of you, our Church family. We know that your prayers have helped to bring us this far. We are truly grateful. In Christian love, Bob & Gwen Bingham

Mike & I would like to take this time to thank our Christian brothers & sisters so much for the prayers for our sister, Ema Lea Martin, during her illness & at the time of her passing. Your love & concern was such a comfort. The flowers were beautiful; after the services, they were shared with the home where she lived the last couple of years. Thanks for the cards, calls, & genuine love & concern for us at this emotional time of our life. In Christian love, Elizabeth & Mike Garrison

Thank you so much for the beautiful basket of flowers that you sent to honor the memory of our beloved mother & sister (Liz Garrison's). It is such a comfort to know that so many people love & care for us. I feel so blessed that you included us in your love for Liz & Mike. Thank you again. In Him, Shirley & Richard Oliver (Ema Lea Martin's daughter & son-in-law).

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Evelyn Armstrong** has been struggling with a cough.
- **Bob Bingham's** is not feeling well this week.
- **Judy Hancock** will have an EEG tomorrow, and then an MRI will be scheduled.
- **Harold Keller's** procedure was successful.
- **Jack & Frances LaFerney** are both suffering with back problems.
- **Jack Cooley** (Jan Smithson's twin brother) is in a hospital in Hugo, OK with a virus.
- **The Forbes'** (Debra Alonzo's parents) continue to struggle; Debra's mother will have knee surgery again & her father also needs help; Debra will be in OK for a few weeks.
- **Todd Jonas** (Charlene Carroll's grandson) may need brain surgery.
- **Tim & Deanna McAlister** (Lyda's children) were in a major auto accident but walked away with only bruises.
- **Earl Scott** (Mary's son) underwent successful aneurysm surgery last week.
- **Crystal Vaughan** (Mary Curtis' daughter) is having problems with a bulging disk.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Sept 21: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Sept 21: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Bible Class at 4:45 p.m. in room #107
- Sept 23: Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in Annex
- Sept. 23: Work on bears in the Annex after LBC
- Sept 27: Teacher Appreciation Banquet in Annex at 6:00 p.m.
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Mary Bowen

Sunday evening:

- Betty Ruckman

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Stan Selby
- Robert Ruckman
- Marvin Brown
- John Mayer
- Denzil Meyers

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- James Gilliam
- Max Melton

SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham
- Judges 3:26-30

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Bill Matthews
- Brandon Thomason

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 | 98 | 101 | 94 | 125 |
| A.M. Worship | 165 | 177 | 166 | 210 |
| P.M. Worship | 90 | 102 | 94 | 112 |
| Wed. Class | 100 | 88 | 95 | 110 |
| Ladies Bible Class | - | - | 28 | 35 |
| Contribution | \$5265 | \$5907 | \$5396 | \$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