

March 16, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

March 22, 2009

a.m. *"God and the Sinner"*

Scripture: Ezekiel 33:1-11

p.m. *"Retirement for Rest"*

Scripture: Mark 6:30-44

The Supernatural

Don Hatch

Reason demands that we separate ourselves from prejudice or preconception when we consider the soul, its value and where it will spend eternity. This should be of grave concern. Fanatics must not dupe or hinder the investigation into the value which God placed on the soul. Weighing evidence and rejecting unreliable statements are the only spheres which will grant a trustworthy means for faith. Objective experiences have an enormous impact on a conciseness of the soul's value.

There are constant teachings of Scripture concerning angels which have appeared to humans. The existence of beings not of this world demand reason to take into consideration the word of those individuals to whom angels appeared. Adam and Eve lived in the Garden of Eden. When they fell the Tree of Life was thereafter guarded by the Cherubim (not earthly creatures Gen 3). Where did they come from and where are they now? Sodom and Gomorrah were visited by heavenly visitants who brought doom (Gen 19). Abraham had angels appear to him and tell him of the impending birth of a son and later told him to offer this son to God. Jacob saw angels ascending and descending upon a ladder. There are many other incidents authorized by the Holy Spirit to record in the Holy Writ concerning heavenly visitants. All of the history of these claimants was authorized to be included in the Holy Writ. Moses the penman for the first five books of the Bible claims to have had angels appear to him. A brief summary of the books of Judges, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Job, Psalms, Ecclesiastes, Isaiah, Daniel, Ezekiel, Hosea, Zechariah and others all speak of angels (112 times). Seventeen of the New Testament books claim angels exist (176 times). Who are angels, where do they live and where are they now? On the authority of the Bible Christians rejoice that it reveals a sphere beyond the natural and therefore, supernatural. The sacred book tells of a complete system of spiritual beings that live in this sphere. God is God of both worlds. The Cherubim are angelic beings involved in the justice of God. They were placed in the garden and on the Ark of the Covenant. Seraphim surround the throne of God and protect any approach to it (Isa 6). Archangels are expressly messengers of God. Angels are mentioned 288 times in the Bible. The conclusion must be that there are beings other than man who exist in a world beyond man's sight.

Satan is a being mentioned in the Bible. He lives in the world beyond, not glory, but damnation. His sovereignty is over a realm of evil. Other angels have joined Satan and are doomed to Gehenna (2 Pet 2). **Flesh and blood cannot** enter into this supernatural world. It is an unwarranted assumption that this spiritual world is far from us. Our world and the spiritual world are not separated by much. Nothing but death separates us. The destiny of the soul is established while upon the earth. Christ came to deliver mankind from the power and fear of death. Jesus is proven to be our Savior and High Priest by His resurrection from the dead (Rom 1:1-5). Jesus pledged that He would come again and receive us into the supernatural world (1 Thes 4:13-18).

One of the evidences is living beings communicating with the dead. If the dead are still alive there must be a location where these souls separated from their bodies now live. It is factual that some dead individuals have been seen and heard. Not in a séance or carnival trick. The saddest people are those who have been duped by slight-of-hand artists who pose as guides to the spiritual world. There is not one historical case which proves they have communicated with the dead.

Bible accounts of those who lived, appearing to the living, are exciting events which have great merit. Saul went to the witch of Endor. She was the one who was amazed that Samuel, who was dead, spoke to Saul. The text will show that she did not believe in what she purported to be able to do. Biblically Christians are taught that Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus Christ on the Mount of Transfiguration (Mat 17). Moses had died and God buried him. The Devil believed Moses had died (Jude 9). Elijah was taken from the land of the living into the spiritual world. Yet, both were alive. Jesus Christ stated that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were alive because God was not the God of the dead but the living (Mat 22:32, 33). Prior to the death of Jesus He prayed and then angels appeared to comfort Him. At the death of Jesus the graves were opened and dead saints came forth appearing to many in the city of Jerusalem (Mat 27:52, 53). At the resurrection of Jesus angels were at His tomb. Angels were there when Jesus ascended into heaven to go to the right-hand of the Father. The Hebrew writer tells of Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the New Jerusalem where there are innumerable angels, as well as Christ, the Holy Spirit and those enrolled in heaven called "just men made perfect by the blood of Christ" (Heb 12:22-29).

The record of a world that is not physical is staggering. *Reason demands that man accept both the individuals who reported it, the Bible which records it and the God who authorized it to be written.* A famous epitaph "Fellow pilgrim as you pass by, remember as you now are so once was I, as I now am you soon shall be, prepare for death and follow me". A reply, "*Until I know which way you went, I will not follow thee*". Eternity is too long to be separated from God. Reason demands action while living.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Suppose one were starving, in desperate need of nourishment lest he die. Sadly, there is no food, no, none to be found anywhere! What will happen? That one will surely die. Suppose one were sick, in pain, suffering, in dire need of medical help and facing death otherwise. Regrettably, there are no doctors, nurses, hospitals or medicines. None can help him. What will happen? He, likewise faces physical death.

Now, suppose one is in sin, burdened with guilt and condemned, desperately needing salvation, forgiveness, cleansing from his sin, but there is no Savior. What will happen? He, too, will surely die, for sin brings spiritual death, and ultimately, eternal death (James 1:14-15). Yet, thanks be to God, there is a Savior. Jesus died for your sins. He left the glory of Heaven with steadfast determination to make possible man's salvation and, knowing full well what faced Him, willingly and lovingly gave His life for us. He took upon Himself the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men that He might experience death for every man, and He humbled himself in obedience unto the death of the cross (Heb. 2:9; Phil. 2:5-8). Why? Because man needed God's love and the provision of God's love—a remedy for sin (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9).

That Jesus died for our sins is good news. That the Son of God died is not good news, but that the Son of God died for our sins is good news (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Further, He lives again, and, by His resurrection, we have hope of certain victory (1 Cor. 15:54-58). Jesus died for our sins, that, we, being dead to sins, might not die in sin (Rom. 6)

~Jerry McKey

“For this cause I bow my knees 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. 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 4:13-21).

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009

A Throne Of Grace

“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and laid open before the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Having then a great high priest, who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy, and may find grace to help us in time of need” (Heb 4:12-16).

Jesus Christ as our High Priest is able to help us in times of need. He became man like us that he might be tempted in all points as us, yet He sinned not. Although He was God, our Creator, He emptied Himself of Godhood and was fashioned as man and in that state He became obedient as a servant to the Father, even unto death (Phil 2:4-11). As man Jesus died for the redemption of man's sins (Rom 5:1-10). He paid the price as our propitiation (Rom

3:21-30; 1 Jn 2:1-5). He is at the right-hand of the Father as our Mediator and Intercessor (1 Tim 2:1-5; Rom 8:31-39). The advantage of being a Christian is unquestionable. No one loves us like Jesus.

Jesus was manifested that mankind can overcome sin if they endure (Rev 2:10). Temptations are not of God but of man's being drawn away by his own lusts and enticing (Jas 1:12-18). When lust is conceived it bears sin and when sin is fullgrown it brings forth spiritual death. Be not deluded when we think we can stand, all should take heed lest we fall. There is no temptation such as man cannot bear for God is faithful to make a way to escape the temptation if we will endure (1 Cor 10:1-13). God is faithful!

Jesus fully understands the temptation of sin. He was tempted in all points, but He did not sin (Heb 4:15, 16). Christians hold to the belief that their High Priest is able to help them. Jesus endured hardships, persecutions and isolation by the Jews and is exalted to the right-hand of the Father as our High Priest. He has sympathy and empathy for all needs of mankind. He coped with Satan. He lived with man being touched with their infirmities. The extent of His suffering cannot be measured. While hanging on the cross, he was mocked by the High Priest of Israel, teachers of the law and mankind. He was tempted. We may never know the depth of such temptation. He overcame and was sinless (2 Cor 5:18-20). Jesus fully understands our needs. He is willing and able to help. Our being able to enter before the throne of the Father is unquestionably the highest privilege granted to mankind. Jesus' suffering was immeasurable. Jesus put emphasis on man's fall and their need of redemption through His blood. Mankind must put emphasis on their fall, seeking God's favor. Approach God's throne with reverence and awe.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, March 22, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

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 meet at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on Tuesday, **March 24th** at 9:30 a.m.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The schedule is set for Vacation Bible School for **June 15-17** with this year's theme being about "Worship". Make plans to bring your friends & children to learn about this important topic.

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

Our Summertime Preaching sessions will begin on Wednesday evening, **June 3rd**, with Perry Cotham as our speaker.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP

Summer Camp at Lake Cisco is free of charge for those kids who'd like to attend. Jr. Camp is set for **July 5-9**. Sr. Camp is set for **July 19-24**. Registration forms will be available soon – around the first of April.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Gwen Bingham** is now home with Don & Connie.
- Grady Fowler** will face surgery sometime soon.
- Judy Hancock** will not need another procedure; her diet is helping her problem.
- Linda Matthews** will see a surgeon on March 24th due to a small lesion on her kidney.
- Lyda McAlister** is home & doing better.
- Frances Seidmeyer** fell & broke her foot; she's able to get around a little.

·**Myrtle Wade** will undergo tests on Wednesday.

·**Dean Webb** will not be released by his doctor for 3 more weeks.

·**Joy Webb** had knee surgery last Tuesday & is home recuperating.

·**Nola Wolfe** is ill at home.

·**James Barnes** (Gladys' son) suffered a heart attack & is in Arlington Memorial. He will need bypass surgery in a few weeks

·**Pati Marik** (Marcella Porter's friend) has been diagnosed with cancer.

·**Charlotte Terry** (Nancy Pond's friend) is in Baylor/Irving, CCU #6, only on a ventilator now & is awake off & on.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Nancy Bauer (Scott Watson' mother), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's neighbor), Natasha & Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- March 22: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- March 22: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- March 24: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- April 4: Teen work day
- April 11-15: Southwest Lectures in Austin
- April 25: Ladies' ½ Day
- June 3: Summertime Preaching
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Julie Roses

Sunday evening:

- Sandy Hall

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

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

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Jerry Baker
- Garl Latham

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Ty Harvey
Ezekiel 33:1-11

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- James Gilliam
- Richard Renfro

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Nathan Allen
Mark 6:30-44

P.M. SONG LEADER

- Jerry Baker (last song: Denzil Myers)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Stan Selby
- 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	90	88	92	125
A.M. Worship	155	147	154	210
P.M. Worship	90	85	90	112
Wed. Class	88	66	83	110
Ladies Bible Class	20	21	32	35
Contribution	\$4968	\$4426	\$5533	\$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