

June 22, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

June 28, 2009

a.m. *"Life from the Dead"*

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-6

p.m. *"The Chief Purpose of the Gospel"*

Scripture: John 20:30, 31

Walking By Faith

Abraham was the pioneer of our faith. Other faithful leaders of his family in the Patriarchal period were Jacob and Joseph. Abraham was called the friend of God (James 2: 23; Isaiah 41: 8; 2 Chronicles 20: 7). Jacob was surnamed Israel (Prince of God). Joseph saved the patriarchs in the time of famine. They lived by faith, not having received the promises of Jehovah but believed that He was able to perform what He had promised. Their longings were for a heavenly home where God would not be ashamed to be called their God (Heb 11:13-16).

Abraham lived in Ur of Chaldees when God called him to his task. He left and took family members, his father, Terah, his wife Sarah, and nephew Lot. Terah died at Heron. Abraham proceeded under the guidance of God and dwelt in the land of the Canaanites. He became known as a **Hebrew** (Genesis 14:13), which literally meant "Crosser". Those who followed in his family lineage were known as **Hebrews**. The faith which Abraham exemplified was a potent force. Faith triumphs over adversity and thrives on doing the will of God.

It is fitting to consider the lives of the people of faith. Faith blossoms and fruit ripen when the faithful seek to do the will of God (Rom 4). Faith is vital and leads individuals to seek daily resources from the gracious hand of God. Their resources are victories and holiness within. Without faith no one will see God (Heb 12:14). The importance of faith is indicated by the fact that all who please God live faithfully. The avenue of their success is a way which is bathed in light (1 Jn 1:5-10). Sinners who are converted have seen the need to exercise faith in God on a daily basis. Saints saved by God's grace keep a keen eye on the course upon which they have started and run the race to the end (1 Cor 9:23-27). Initially faith provides evidence and continues to keep us unashamed of His Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation. Those of faith live unto faith.

At the time of Abraham in Ur he was distressed by people. Evil abounded but it was neither fear nor poverty, nor love of adventure which impelled Abraham to quit his native land. God called him to start out on a walk of faith. This substance of things hoped for was underpinned by evidence in the unseen. Abraham knew that there was a God and he trusted in Him.

Abraham's attitude displayed his hope and confidence in God. Abraham had an assurance in God. The scriptures teach us that certain things are not seen but there is a conviction in the life of the faithful that they exist. Thus, the faithful endure not seeing the things which are invisible (Rom 1:18-20). Without such a faith one could not wander for 70 years. Yet Abraham trusted that God would one day give the land to his children (Gen 15:12-21). The sum and substance of Bible faith is seen in the faithful who are able to penetrate beyond their years, seeing the unseen while trusting in the living God. It is holding this testimony as truth that wins the victory. Faith is foundational in building the life which seeks virtue, spiritual knowledge, self-control, endurance in trials and knows that godliness is a spiritual trait which must increase and loves as Christ loves (2 Pet 1:3-11). The faithful give diligence to make their calling and election sure seeking an entrance into the eternal kingdom of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith Abraham blessed Isaac concerning things to come. Isaac blessed Jacob concerning the same things (Heb 11). Moses chose not to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season accounting the riches of Christ a greater reward (Heb 11:24-29). Moses looked into the unseen future and estimated the blessings of God greater than the present world. The unseen blessings of God exist and to prevail like Moses one needs to wax strong, not waiver giving God the glory for fulfilling all His promises. The things written about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses are for our sake that we might reckon Him faithful who delivered up His only begotten Son for our salvation (Rom 4:1-25).

God made seven generous promises to Abraham (Genesis 12: 1-3). He would have a country, nationality, happiness, fruitfulness, service, protection, and most importantly "...in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed". Literally his blessings were going to bless others. Greater blessings could not be bestowed on a mortal than to be a blessing to others. To believe and trust God is to have an unhesitating assurance in God when others say there is neither support nor evidence. This unfaltering faith has seen promises fulfilled in others and trusts that God is unchangeable. Faith has a spiritual eye that sees and ears that hear not being troubled by harassments, questions and doubts of others. It sees a living God, listens to the words of God and seeks to appropriate spiritual blessings by being in Jesus (Eph 1:3-15). Even when darkness seems to overwhelm faith does not tremble while holding to the hand of God. Abraham renounced everything in order to accept the offer from God. It is only in renunciation of self that life, properly speaking, begins. He left certain things for uncertainty.

The secret of his life was faith. Faith is always sure of its goal, it is a state of the soul in which one thing is definite, God is everlasting and there is a magnificent sureness which is steadfast and sure. When God calls an individual to trust in Him, he never walks alone. God has promised to never fail nor in anywise forsake us (Heb 13:1-6). Walking by faith is the kind of life that pleases God.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

As a group, what takes up more shelf space than most any other item at the grocery store? It's cereal! Americans like the convenience of starting the day by eating an instant meal you can just pour out of a cardboard box.

Health watchdog groups have long bemoaned the little nutritional value of some cereals, especially targeted to kids, which are mostly sugar and fluff. Yet, it's big business. Note the

clever marketing appeal: (1) brightly package the product, (2) promote it with exciting action appeal, (3) sugarcoat the contents, and (4) offer a free prize.

A Striking Parallel in Religion Today, various churches line the streets like cereal boxes line the grocery store shelves. How do they persuade people to choose their church over another church? How do they survive in the religious marketplace? The wisdom of men says that a church should, (1) brightly package the product, (2) promote it with exciting action appeal, (3) sugarcoat the contents, and (4) offer free prizes, like food and entertainment.

This may appeal to a carnal mindset. It may draw the secular crowd. Yet, just as the little nutritional value of kids cereal is printed in fine print on the box's side, so this kind of religion is nutritionally worthless in converting and saving the soul of man.

Jesus told the clamoring, carnally minded crowds to seek Him for the right reasons. "Jesus answered them and said, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled. Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal”* (John 6:26-27). The religion of Christ is not a shallow diversion or religious snack. Junk food religion may have much hype and pizzazz, but it does not touch and transform the inner man. The life-changing power of the gospel of Christ is for the serious and earnest, who realize they need to feed their soul with solid spiritual food.

~ adapted from an article by Wilson Adams

“Preserve me, O God; for in thee do I take refuge. O my soul, thou hast said unto Jehovah, Thou art my Lord: I have no good beyond thee. As for the saints that are in the earth, They are the excellent in whom is all my delight. Their sorrows shall be multiplied that give gifts for another god: Their drink-offerings of blood will I not offer, Nor take their names upon my lips. Jehovah is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: Thou maintainest my lot” (Psm 16:1-5).

Vacation Bible School 2009

VBS was a great success and God was glorified through the theme of “Worshiping The Living God”. Thanks to everyone who invited guests, passed out “door-hangers”, families which saw our advertisement in “Irving Parent Magazine and brought their children. Classes were held for ages Cradle-Roll through 5th Grade and Adults.

Teachers and helpers were: **Cradle-roll** Debra and Jessie Alonzo; **Pre-School** Janice Daniel, Roberta Price, Nancy Pond; **Kindergarten through 5th Grade** rotated from room to room and studied Worship In Singing, Ty and Samantha Harvey; Worship In Preaching, Jerry McKey; Worship in the Lord’s Supper, Beverly McKey; Worship In Prayer, Letitia Beverly; Worship in Giving, Melissa and Scott Allen; Worshiping The Living God In Five Acts Of Worship, Joann Hatch and the **Adult class**, Don Hatch. There were 43 children enrolled. The total of children, adults and workers in attendance were Monday 106- Tuesday 103- Wednesday 106.

Leaders guided the children from class to class each evening. These individuals play a major role in helping keep the VBS structured. They were Megan Little, Jamie Little, Stephanie Howard, Nathan Allen, Michele Latham and Sandy Hall. Richard Renfro and Dean Webb

helped rearrange some of the classes. Because of these workers all went smoothly and the children were instructed in God's word.

No VBS is complete without the "Cookie Ladies". The children and adults enjoyed a break and the refreshments. Carolyn Renfro, Betty Ruckman, Dessie Ross, Cindy Vaughn, Scott and Kassie Price worked in the kitchen. Many thanks for all the cookies brought.

Linda Matthews and Ilene Ashworth signed in the students at the registration table. Ilene had a family emergency and Linda took care registration. It was wonderful to have such kind and loving ladies as their first contact.

Michelle Farmer and Darrell Allen took care of our photography. We have some "unique" pictures. Cathy Taylor made a great bulletin board.

Bill Matthews led the adult singing and recorded the auditorium lessons. Darrell Allen was the song leader for youth. It was great to see these two brothers in Christ with their different groups.

Behind the scenes were the Garrisons. They made preparations for all of us to be comfortable and removed "a ton" of paper, trash and the likes. We sincerely thank them for going above and beyond.

Letitia Beverly taught and did her secretarial duties also. We appreciate her very much.

Jay Ross counted the adult class. He is always there to help and we thank him.

For all of who made the VBS complete we are truly grateful and honor you for your works sake. The list of individuals who participated might be incomplete. If I missed you please accept this as your thank you too! Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, June 28, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, July 5, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor; 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 at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** devotional will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

This Wednesday's lesson is entitled "**Laborers**" from Matthew 20:1-16 by Brother Ken Hope

There are new letters from our Missionaries in the front foyer. Take a moment to see what they are doing. The Mohsen's & DiPalma's will be with us in August and September.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

June 23rd session will held be at the Lake Dallas congregation. Call the McKey's if you plan to attend (972-252-7075).

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Gwen Bingham** remains in Las Colinas Medical Hospital, room #212 and will undergo a procedure Tuesday.

•**Charlene Carroll** underwent surgery on her wrist last Friday and is staying with her daughter in Keller.

•**Grady Fowler** has been placed on a heart monitor for 24 hours.

•**Marion Grantham** had surgery on his eye.

•**Jean Kelly** is at Northgate Plaza, room # 105 for rehab.

•**Elsie Nanney** has moved to Ashford Hall; room #210.

•**Billie Prince** had an appointment with her cardiologist last Friday.

·**Joy Webb** has a stress fracture in her leg.

·**Donna Willaims**, (Bobbie Williams' daughter-in-law) was injured in a recent car accident. She is in Baylor/Dallas, Roberts Bldg. Rm. #1616 and is scheduled for surgery Tuesday June 23rd.

·**John Veyon** (Ilene Ashworth's brother) is doing better.

PRAYER REQUEST

Beverly Sweat requests prayers on her behalf for strength in faith and that her children will come to the Lord.

THANK YOU

Dear Beltline: Thank you for all the cards and well wishes during my recent graduation and especially for the Bible. ~Chad Mathews

Grady and I want to thank you for your calls and prayers. In Christian love, Grady and BC Fowler

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Grady Fowler, Fauna and Frank Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Gardean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, 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 (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- June 28: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- June 28: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- July 1: Summertime Preaching
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 7: Summer Youth Series
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Grady Fowler
- Stan Selby

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Rob Farmer
- Jerry Baker

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Mike Batot
Ezekiel 37:1-6

A.M. SONG LEADER

· Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

· Marvin Brown
· Glen Kelly

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Bill Matthews
John 20:30, 31

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Jerry Baker (last song: Denzil Myers)

LORD’S TABLE/EVENING

· Robert Ruckman
· Bill Paschall

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	96	91	93	125
A.M. Worship	153	142	155	210
P.M. Worship	89	88	87	112
Wed. Class	30	46	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5266	\$5431	\$5392	\$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