

July 27, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 2, 2009

a.m. "*Life and Mortality*"

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

p.m. "*Greatest Things in the World*"

Scripture: John 10:7-18

Blessed Assurance

Don Hatch

There is a spiritual birthright for the saints. It is their privilege to enjoy inner peace from knowing that it has been granted to them as a spiritual gift (Eph 1:3). By raising Jesus from the dead God gave an assurance that Jesus was the standard by which all must consider themselves (1 Tim 5:1). Jesus is the pledge to saints for their fidelity. This full assurance and confidence is described as a freedom of mind and confidence in results brought about by the gospel (Col 2:2). The engrossing fact is the Christian's expectation that future blessings are because God promised (Heb 10:22). The title-deed is guaranteed and all will be received in full measure (Rom 4:12-21; Ecc 8:11). Through Christ's work the faithful receive the possession of salvation in which is found hope of everlasting life (Jn 3:16; 1 Jn 5:13). The righteous shall have peace, quietness and serenity in their souls (Phil 4:4-7).

Assurance of salvation is the theme of the New Testament. Christ, His Apostles and the church of Christ taught that with assurance doubts fade away. The Bible glows with rejoicing in salvation because Jesus who died was raised from the dead and is at the right hand of the Father (Acts 2:33-37). A great tragedy would be if the redeemed did not fully enjoy this assurance. Many lack assurance because they try to retain a relationship with the world. Walking with the world is full of alienation, ignorance, lasciviousness, uncleanness, greediness and things which corrupt (Eph 4:17-24). Those who are in fellowship with Christ have renewed themselves in their spirit and mind following God through Christ, in righteousness and holiness.

The Bible does not say, "He that feels good shall be saved" but rather "He who faithfully walks in light will be blessed with fellowship with God and the faithful" (1 Jn 1:1-4). Salvation does not rest on feelings and vicissitudes of life. Lives occupied in the vineyard of Christ will find ample assurance that their works are not in vain (1 Cor 15:58). In assurance there is no timid probe, or psychoanalysis saying, "I hope I am saved, maybe or perhaps I am saved". The saved know they are saved unto eternal life because one cannot be saved through doubt.

“These things have I written unto you, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, even unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God” (1 Jn 5:13).

Those who have been saved by grace accept that God is able to keep that which is committed unto Him against that day (2 Tim 1:12). Does this imply that we can continue in sin? We should not let sin reign in our mortal bodies in word or deed (Col 3:17). Neither should we obey lust or present our lives to be used as instruments of unrighteousness. We are alive in Christ valuing the life in which we have as an opportunity to manifest righteousness wherein sin has no dominion over us. The faithful know that they present themselves only by obedience unto righteousness. God is worthy of praise because sins have been remitted and now our obedience is unto righteousness (Rom 6:12-18). Mentally and spiritually the redeemed rely on this assurance that they are children of God and hold fast to the end being filled with joy (Phil 4:1-4; Heb 3:6-14). Confidence is manifested when the Christian adorns the doctrine of God accepting instruction to the intent that denying ungodliness, worldly lusts and living soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Tit 2:11-15). The assurance God offers is unassailable and unchanging. Mankind is equal to the task of following God by putting heart, soul and mind into securing an obedient and faithful life.

Christ’s interest never diminishes. As the High Priest of our confession, Mediator of our covenant, Savior of the body, He makes intercessions and is able to save the faithful to the uttermost (Heb 2:18; 7:25; Rom 8:34). Our righteousness is not our own, but the Lord’s (2 Cor 5:18-20). Many are confident that all is well because of their own morality. Such assurance is false, seeing that all their righteousness is but filthy rags in the Lord’s sight (Isa 64:6). Only divine righteousness can avail on our behalf and assurance rests not upon ourselves, but on the fact that we have put on Christ in baptism and our sins have been remitted (Gal 3:27; Acts 2:38). Assurance is an eternal salvation based upon obedience (Rom 1:1-5; 26:19). Assurance is a spiritual process which enables an individual to develop a willingness to accept all that is inspired and required (Gal 2:20, 21). There is full assurance of faith, of understanding, and of hope (Heb 10:22; Col 2:2; Heb 6:11). Assurance rests upon salvation by grace and obedience to the will of God. Grasping this spiritual privilege is when obedience fulfills the apostolic teachings and God’s commands (2 Cor 7:15; 10:6; Phil 2:1; Act 2:42). Since obedience is the initial act which leads to the new life, it is essential and characteristic that the individual maintain such obedience throughout life.

Unconditionally we exercise our faith unto holiness (1 Pet 1:13-25). Salvation is not just a fleeting moment, but a newness of life which demands the Christian’s full attention. Contentment amidst all situations is part of the assurance that Christians have. Undaunted courage in the face of cares and vicissitudes of life is because obedience is not presumptuous (2 Cor 4:7-15). The absence of assurance is the presence of doubt. Let us draw near with a true heart in fullness of faith (Heb 10:19-25).

“And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered; and he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that to them that love God all things work together for good, even to them that are called according to his purpose. For whom he foreknew, he also foreordained to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he

might be the firstborn among many brethren: and whom he foreordained, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified” (Rom 8:26-30).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

We are all excited about having Roland and Rose Mohsen coming to visit with us a few days. Roland will give a report on the work in Paris, France on Sunday night, August 9. They have been laboring for the Lord in France for many years. Roland also preaches in Africa and several French speaking countries throughout the world. Roland and Rose are very successful in their personal evangelism as well. They conduct many Bible studies on a regular basis. Rose utilizes the teaching of English to study the Bible with interested souls. She has enrolled thousands in correspondence courses over the years. Their congregation has almost twenty different nationalities and several different languages. They are probably one of the most diverse churches in the brotherhood. When I tell others about the missionaries that Belt Line helps support, many are amazed that we have so many in different countries and so many different languages. God has blessed us with a generous membership and an eldership that is very interested in spreading the gospel throughout the world to everyone.

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” Amen. Matt. 28:18-20

~Richard L. Renfro

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and light unto my path. I have sworn, and have confirmed it, that I will observe thy righteous ordinances. I am afflicted very much: Quicken me, O Jehovah, according unto thy word. Accept, I beseech thee, the freewill-offerings of my mouth, O Jehovah, and teach me thine ordinances. My soul is continually in my hand; yet do I not forget thy law. The wicked have laid a snare for me; yet have I not gone astray from thy precepts. Thy testimonies have I taken as a heritage for ever; for they are the rejoicing of my heart. I have inclined my heart to perform thy statutes forever, even unto the end” (Psalm 109:105-112).

There is a promise of strength and comfort because we have been called by God. Being called according to God’s purpose is when the sinner surrenders to the holiness of God and acts according to the necessary standards He set forth. God calls through the gospel (1 Thes 1:6-9). God divinely allows Jew, Gentile, male, female, bond and free to be in Christ (Gal 3:37-29). Each is called according to a purpose and entrusted to carry the gospel to others (Act 13:2; 16:10). God beseeches all to make their calling and election sure (2 Pet 1:3-11). The invitation in the gospel is to have grace and mercy applied (Eph 2:1-10). Those who were alienated from God, strangers to the promise, without God and hope are called to obey the

gospel (Eph 2:11-23). The saved are called "Christian" (Acts 11:26; 1 Pet 4:16). This calling is immeasurable in its depth, length, height and breadth (Eph 3:14-19). God has granted that all might be strengthened with power in the inward man and that Christ will dwell in the heart through faith. God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we ask or think according to His power when we are members of the church of Christ (Eph 1:22, 23; 3:20-21). In times of trials there is help (2 Cor 1:3-10).

Being called is synonymous to "them that love God". The called are members of an august family of God (2 Cor 6:17, 18). The word church has this meaning, "the called out" [ekklesia]. The true church is composed of individuals who have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine (Rom 6:15-18). They have been called out of the world into the fellowship with saints (1 Jn 1:1-4; Acts 2:47; Rom 1:1-6; 16:19). When they are active in a local congregation they fulfill the purpose to which God has called them. Not many wise according to the flesh, mighty or noble are called. God chooses those who believe in the gospel, deny the base things of the world and those who will allow God's wisdom to rule their lives (1 Cor 1:26-31). God's purpose and grace are at work in the Christian (2 Tim 1:9). The church of Christ is according to God's eternal purpose. Hence all things work together on behalf of those called.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 2, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, August 9, 2009

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 **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet 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.

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

August 5th's lesson is entitled "**Unmerciful Servant**" from Matthew 18:21-35 by Brother Richard Stevens III.

PHONE DIRECTORIES

New phone directories are available in both foyers; take what you need.

GOSPEL MEETING

The Gilbert Road Church of Christ invites us to their annual Gospel Meeting **July 31 – August 4** with Rennie Frazier of Minnesota as the speaker. See the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The Summer Youth Series will be at the Bedford Road Church of Christ Tuesday, **August 4th**. Please let the McKey's know if you plan to attend: (972)252-7075.

THOSE TO SERVE IN AUGUST

Lord's table (front): Mike Batot, Thomas Rathbun, James Gilliam, Brandon Howard, Rob Farmer, Denzil Myers, Stan Selby, Glen Kelly

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

p.m. Robert Ruckman, Bill Paschall

Card Pickup: a.m. Cole & Ethan Howard; p.m. Nathan & Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: Mike Garrison, Stan Selby

Communion Preparers: Garl & Michele Latham

WITH SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Brandon & Kenica Thomason in the loss of their infant daughter.

Kevin Fitzgerald (former member, Vallie Lynch's grandson) passed away in an automobile accident over the weekend.

NEWS OF OUR ILL

·**Gwen Bingham** is in Las Colinas Medical, room # 202 following successful hip surgery last Friday.

·**Grady Fowler** continues to struggle with severe health issues.

·**Hank Henry** continues to struggle with severe heart problems.

·**Bernice Guisinger** has moved to The Corinthians Assisted Living; 1029 Seminole Tr., #114; Carrollton, TX 75007; 972-395-3553.

·**Tom Head** is in Baylor/Irving, room #422 following a stroke; he may undergo surgery for a pacemaker.

·**Jack LaFerney's** back surgery has been postponed; he will undergo a stress test tomorrow (7/28).

·**Elsie Nanney** is now home doing well.

·**Billie Prince** underwent several tests last week.

·**AC & Maxine Prude** is in HEB, room #422.

·**Leo Townsend** will see a doctor next week about a spot on his pancreas.

·**Myrtle Wade** was released from the hospital yesterday (7/26).

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Garldean Latham, Elsie Nanney, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Joy Webb, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Frank Garrett, Louise Gierling (former member & Tom Gierling's mother), John Veyon (Ilene Ashworth's brother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (son of missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- August 2: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 2: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.]
- August 4: Summer Youth Series
- August 5: Summertime Preaching

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Glen Kelly

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Virgil LaFerney
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Mike Garrison

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
- 2 Timothy 1:3-14

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Garl Latham
- Darrell Allen

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Nathan Allen
- John 10:7-18

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Ty Harvey

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	92	92	93	125
A.M. Worship	157	162	156	210
P.M. Worship	70	83	86	112
Wed. Class	102	81	79	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$4387	\$4761	\$5364	\$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