

February 9, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 15, 2009

a.m. *"Jesus Loves His Own"*

Scripture: John 13:1-11

p.m. *"Death and the Soul"*

Scripture: Ezekiel 18:4-27

Speech Betrays or Signifies Our Christianity

Don Hatch

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer each one" (Col 4:6). Words we speak are of great importance. They display conduct seasoned with graciousness. When Christians conduct themselves wisely they manifest an example of the higher goals which can be reached by mankind. Vilification and character-assassination are supplanted by vitreous living and speech. Christians may be maligned and accused but their lives manifest what is true in their character.

A Christian's speech has a quality which inherently knows that every idle word that men speak has a day of reckoning (Mat 12:36). When a Christian answers inquires there is a graciousness which is forthright and filled with respect. Not returning reviling for reviling was what the Lord displayed (1 Pet 2:23). Speaking truth in love is the best description of the Christians character (Eph 4:15). A Christian's language is not insipid, corrupt or absent of respectfulness.

Answering others refers to ordinary conversation indicating the verbal response of a Christian who wants to be courteous, never crude or hurtful. The intricate complexities of living in this present world without being worldly are accomplished by knowing God. Faithful living is demonstrated by our manner of speech. Seasoned with salt illustrates that there is a **preservative** quality in the Christian's speech. Moreover the words of a Christian are **palatable** and **savory**. Scriptures specify that a Christian is careful with conversation for sound speech cannot be condemned. Carefully choosing what is said or has to be said is where the Christian speech sparkles (Tit 2:8). The Christian's speech should be able to be relied upon because they speak truth to everyone (Eph 4:25). Furthermore, no corrupt communication proceeds out of their mouth, but what they say is useful, edifying and ministers grace to the hearer (Eph 4:29). Christians have put away anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy and filthy communication from their mouth (Col 3:8). Words which are edifying and helpful are wholesome and sound. Man may not be able to tame the tongue but God can as Christians engage in prayerful living (Jas 3:1-11). Speech becomes innocuous and enriching to the hearer when we fully surrender our lives to the will of God.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

This is an excerpt from Charlie and Mary DiPalma's latest report from Kangayam, India:

Lord willing, on 1 March 2009, Mary and I will begin our eighth year in the India work. It is surely true that such developments as mentioned above disturb us and could discourage us if we allowed them to. The same is true of our dear brother and sister Raja and Racheal with whom we work very closely. However, we choose to remain focused upon Christ, His word, His church, and the good things He has made possible through what we believe is His gracious providence. That includes such things as the following during 2008:

1. The 61 souls saved
2. The Christians who have been strengthened and who are growing spiritually
3. The first church (N. Tirupur, where Sekar preaches) purchasing land and almost completing construction of a church building
4. The church of Christ at Kangayam taking over all of Raja's support for preaching the Gospel locally
5. That church withdrawing fellowship for the first time in its history from a dear brother and sister who refused to repent of sin, even after much patient and loving exhortation
6. Raja studying the Scriptures I shared with him and drawing the conclusion that God expects the local church to support the preacher and not to be continually dependent upon help from abroad
7. Raja studying those Scriptures diligently with the preachers to convince them of that fact
8. Raja developing a system to "wean" the local churches off of foreign support over a 15-year period of time
9. Raja and I working patiently and lovingly with the preachers who then agreed to commit wholeheartedly to make that system work in each of the churches where they are laboring
10. The church in Kangayam overcoming a split through the tireless efforts of Raja and others to bring back many who left, including the brother and sister who were the major cause of the split.

We are deeply grateful for every prayer that has been said, every word of encouragement that has been sent, every expression of love and kindness, and every penny that has been contributed to make it possible for all of us to work for the Lord (in Mary's and my case, both in India and in Malaysia)! We again plead with you to pray fervently that all of us working in both countries will succeed in every action that pleases God and be defeated in every action that is contrary to His will! May we all strive to glorify Him and His beloved Son in all that we think, say, and do! Mary and I pray that God will grant you a productive, healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year as you strive with all your might to seek Him and His will first! Privileged to serve in the glorious cause of our loving Master Jesus. Pray for Charlie and Mary DiPalma (our e-mail address is charmmary1969@yahoo.com).

By the time you read this, Lord willing, I'll be in Russia writing the next bulletin article about Oleg and Natasha Yakimenko..

~ Richard L. Renfro

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009

GOD'S WILL and MAN'S WHIMS

The Word of God and the ideas of man are not always in perfect agreement. Observe:

Man says, "Love for God is the important thing, not the keeping of commandments." God, in 1 John 5:3 teaches, *"This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments."* And again, Jesus made clear, *"If you love me, keep my commandments"* (John 14:15).

Man says, "One church is just as good as another. Join the church of your choice." God, speaking through His Son, promised to build but one church (Matthew 16:18). The Word of God speaks of this church as Christ's body (Ephesians 1:22, 23) and affirms, *"There is one body"* (Ephesians 4:4).

Man says, "Baptism may be important, but it has nothing to do with salvation." God's Word states clearly, *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved"* (Mark 16:16). And from 1 Peter 3:21, *"Baptism doth also now save us."*

Man says, "God is love, and a loving God will not permit anyone to be lost." God does affirm His love toward all people (1 John 4:16; John 3:16), but He has also promised a time *"when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his might angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2 Thessalonians 1:7, 8).

Man says, "Our worship of God is a personal and private thing. We need no scriptural authority for worshipping as we do. As long as the heart is sincere, all worship is accepted." God's Word teaches, *"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth"* (John 17:17).

My question is this: Will we succumb to the whims of man, or will we submit to the will of God?

~ Dalton Key: minister for the N. Amarillo Church of Christ; Amarillo, TX

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 15, 2009

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Sunday, February 22, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor; Max Melton

Back foyer: Jamie & Megan Little

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, **February 17th** at 9:30 a.m.

39'ers

The 39'ers will meet in the Annex on Monday, **February 16th** at 6:30 p.m. for food & fellowship. Join us!

CHRIST'S HAVEN

It's time once again to help the Christ's Haven Children's Home with groceries. You may find bags in both foyers with a list of items needed. Please **return filled bags by Monday, February 16th** as the van will pick up on Tuesday, the 17th. Thanks!

IN APPRECIATION

Dear Fellow Christians: All the prayers, cards, visits, calls, & concern during my recent surgery & recovery was greatly appreciated. Thanks so much, Dorris Walker.

WITH SYMPATHY

Former member, **Virginia Boley**, passed away last Monday. Services were held at Brown's Funeral Home on Thursday & interment was at the Nat'l Cemetery.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Joann Hatch** was treated & released after a couple of days in Baylor.
- Richard Renfro** is leaving for Russia this afternoon (2/9).
- Dean Webb** is now in room #317.

•**Madison** (4-yr old granddaughter of Lotah Franklin's friend) suffers with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis.

•**Raymond Forbes** (Debra Alonzo's father) is in a rehab facility in OK undergoing therapy for stress fractures.

•**Robert Porter** (Marcella's brother) will undergo knee replacement surgery tomorrow (12/10) in San Angelo.

•**Scott Watson** (Jeanene Heilman's friend) is in ICU at UT Southwestern Hospital.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Nancy Bauer (mother of Scott Watson), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Todd Jonas (Charlene Carroll's grandson), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's neighbor), & our shut-ins.

God of Grace

O grant us faith, dear God of grace, that strengthens and sustains - a faith that reigns triumphantly through all our earthly pains.

Grant comfort that reveals Thy love, console our hearts, we pray; God, wipe our tears, and courage give to walk in hope each day.

O grant us peace, dear God of grace, peace Thou alone canst give; that we may rest our souls in Thee, and in Thy sweetness live.

We pray this in Jesus' name.

~ Beverly J. Anderson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- February 8: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- February 8: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- February 10: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- March 7: Teen/39er breakfast at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex
- April 4: Teen work day
- April 25: Ladies' ½ Day

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Jamie Little

Sunday evening:

- Sandy Hall

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**Front Table**

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

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Mike Garrison
- Thomas Rathbun

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Paschall
- Ezekiel 18:4-27

P.M. SONG LEADER

- Ty Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Garl Latham

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Mike Batot

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Stan Selby
- Jeremy Hardegree

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
- John 13:1-11

A.M. SONG LEADER

- 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	93	86	93	125
A.M. Worship	145	158	157	210
P.M. Worship	85	85	90	112
Wed. Class	77	89	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	16	24	24	35
Contribution	\$64397	\$5359	\$5907	\$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