

**August 16, 2010**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**August 22, 2010**

a.m. "*Making Wise Choices*"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 10:6-13

p.m. "*Gratitude's Greatest Gift*"

Scripture: Mark 14:3-9

**In The Beginning**

Don Hatch

**It is said that in Genesis** there are seven facts. The material universe or sphere of divine revelation of grace; the human race or subject of divine grace; human sins or cause of divine revelation about grace; beginning of divine redemption or character of divine revelation of grace; beginnings of nations or scope of divine grace; beginning of the Hebrew nation or channel of divine grace; beginning of faithfulness, consecration or outcome of divine grace. Genesis does not give details of every human but several were selected because of their role in redemption. Most of the history of Genesis is devoted to Abraham. In Abraham would all nations be blessed through Jesus Christ (Rom 4; Gen 22:17, 18; Gal 3:1-29). Redemption from sin is the basic theme of Genesis. The need for redemption is implied and the fall of man was the reason. The creation of man is a charming event and the fall is the darkest event in all of history. The brightest event was Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham, the seed of Adam (Mat 1:1-17; Lk 3:23-38). The spread of sin and destruction of fellowship with God caused the need for redemption. God's answer was Jesus Christ. Genesis is the beginning of the gospel (Gal 3:8). Genealogies of mankind trace unique characters in the unfolding of redemption by grace. Genealogies are essential and form a consecutive series from Adam to Jesus Christ [second Adam 1 Cor 15:45-49]. These lives produce a collateral and connection thread demonstrating the purpose of Genesis.

**As an ancient book**, Genesis sets forth truths and events which are more ancient than the book itself. If its truth, including events and their meanings, are out of date, man is out of date. Genesis is relevant if man is relevant. Destruction of the Genesis account destroys man's birthright, distinction and lasting importance. The numerous subjects inaugurated in Genesis are relevant today. **Theology** deals with God's revelation and will for man. Man needs to know the Almighty, His nature, will and desires for man. The culmination of God's revelation is found in Christ Jesus and His New Covenant with mankind by His blood (Jer 31:31; Heb 8:8-13; 1 Cor 11:25; Heb 10:29). Genesis manifests the Creator, Revelator, Lawgiver and Redeemer. **Cosmology** involves the study of the universe. Genesis shows that the universe is not eternal; it is not self-contained, self-explained and is not God. Therefore, neither nature nor things created are to be worshiped (Rom 1:18-23). **Anthropology** is the study of man. Genesis demonstrates that a study of man is inadequate apart from his origin, fall and need of

redemption. Man is made in the image of God but needs to be reconciled (2 Cor 5:18-20). **Sociology** is a study of society. Human society cannot be successfully studied apart from its relationship to God. The home, marriage and family cannot be profitably understood without knowing their purpose. God alone established this purpose. **Marriage between one man and one woman is essential.** Only because they become one flesh is there to be children. Man with man or woman with woman will not perpetuate Adam's race (Rom 1:24-27). Essentially Genesis shows that God established marriage, the home and family. Jesus Christ elevated the ideal of marriage by using it as an illustration of His relationship with the church (2 Cor 11:1, 2; Eph 5:22-33). Christ's love is supreme and He reveals how man must love his wife. Marriage precedes a home and children. **Sin** affects all things. One would have to be blind not to see sin's problems in our world. It is fashionable to deny sin and the responsibility to "master it" (Gen 4:1-8). Genesis gives a study of the races. It sets forth when they began (Gen 9-11). Only in the Bible does it disclose that all races are of one blood (Act 17:22-29). Darwinism is wrong. Man did not evolve from an "ape like man". Mankind is unique. He is greater than the beast. Man has the image of God stamped upon him (Gen 1:26, 27). **Salvation** exists if sin does. What man must do to be saved is a special study and the most important question of all time. The problem of sin is dealt with from Genesis to Revelation. Salvation is found in Christ. Genesis clearly shows faith and obedience is required (Gen 4:1-13; Heb 11:1-6). Genesis sets forth evidence of God's wrath concerning sin (Gen 6-10). Noah's ark and the flood are used as proof positive that God is longsuffering, but will eventually come in His wrath (1 Pet 3:13-22; 2 Pet 2:1-22; 3:8-18). God demands holiness and morality in His people. How we deal with the interrelationship of the universe, man, society, sin, race and salvation will determine our eternal destiny.

**We are no longer under** the Patriarchal or Mosaic dispensation. They existed to be a tutor to bring us unto Christ (Gal 3:23-29). There was no Christ in these special times. Now in the fullness of time Christ came forth being born of a woman and under the Law (Gal 4:1-7). Christ's sacrifice of Himself upon the cross constitutes the beginning of a new dispensation (Heb 3:1-19). The Old Testament, with its types and shadows has been taken out of the way and was nailed to the cross of Jesus (Col 2:14-16). The Old Testament has historical value, prepares for the New Testament, give credentials to Christ and manifests that God has always encouraged, comforted and strengthened His creation (man). The nature of God is still true. He seeks fellowship with man (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). He established a New Covenant with man through Jesus Christ and will save mankind to the uttermost. **Faith and obedience have always been needful** to please God. Genesis was the beginning of both.

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

A religion that is pleasing to man and has no consideration in following the true scriptures is worthless in our God's sight. A religion that follows the scriptures as we strive to at Belt Line is worthwhile, and should be what we seek and keep (James 1:26, 27; 1 Pet. 3:12). Only a religion that pleases God will be acceptable. We must make our choice (Joshua 24:15). There are only two places for our destiny; one is good and one is very, very bad. If we have reached the age of accountability, then we are going to the bad place if we don't choose like Joshua.

Who will be eternally lost? The worldly-minded, who live selfishly for this world, will be lost. Those who practice false religion will be lost. And those who are not "in Christ" will be lost. But none of those have to be lost. Christ came to seek and save the lost, and He gives us a choice. Live without Jesus Christ and be eternally lost or live and die in Christ, and be saved; "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord" (Rev. 14:13).

Jesus said it plainly, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the father but by me" (John 14:6). The apostles said of Jesus, "In none other is there salvation, neither is there any other name under heaven, given among men, wherein we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). It doesn't matter how "moral" or how "religious" we may be, if we are not "in Christ" we will be eternally lost. Christ is "able to save us to the uttermost" (Heb. 7:25), but Christ is only One who can save us. Jesus said "If you don't believe that I am he, you shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). We must believe in Jesus, that He is the Christ, the Son of God, the Savior. If we depart this life outside of Christ we will be eternally lost.

One of the basic truths revealed in both the Old and New Testament Scriptures is that God "will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or evil" (Eccl. 12:14). It is impossible to keep any secret from God. Jesus reveals to us that we have a choice of two destinies, and we choose our eternity by how we live now. Read Matt. 25:31-46. The simple choice is ours, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. He that disbelieveth shall be condemned" (MK.16:16). If you know of someone who is not attending worship services, and could be, let's encourage them to think about their choice?

Remember our sick and shut-ins in all prayers. Have a great week serving God and strive to keep His commandments Dean Webb

"If ye died with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, do ye subject yourselves to ordinances, Handle not, nor taste, nor touch (all which things are to perish with the using), after the precepts and doctrines of men? Which things have indeed a show of wisdom in will-worship, and humility, and severity to the body; but are not of any value against the indulgence of the flesh".

### **NO IMAGES**

"And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, and said, Ye men of Athens, in all things, I perceive that ye are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain even of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Being then the offspring of God, we ought

not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man. The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, we will hear thee concerning this yet again" (Acts 17:22-32).

**Any attempt to create a picture or statute** of God has been forbidden by scripture (Ex 20:4; Rom 1:18-32). Idolatry is forbidden. The Creator is too great to attempt to visualize (Ex 34:1-7). There is no representation of the immortal and invisible Creator (1 Tim 6:16). Depictions of God by graven device of gold, silver, iron or wood has always been forbidden. Such items are totally inexcusable and unquestionably forbidden by scripture. In many major religions practitioners have depicted their no-gods in graven art. The rebellious hearts of these pagans has tried to make a god. Any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or earth beneath is unacceptable. Those who believe the truth of the Bible will not change God into an idol.

**Paul found the Athenians worshiping** idols (Acts 17:22-39). Their ignorance of God was compounded by their practice of creating no-gods who represented the stars, earth, things on the earth and needs of mankind. They were unable to worship the true God in such a manner. They had to be converted to knowing that God was a spirit beyond containment in things made by man. Paul told them that they lived, moved and had their being in Him. Hence, the reverse of what they were doing. Introducing the true God gave opportunity for them to turn to the living God. Mankind is the offspring of God, not stone. Idolatry in any form does not depict the inestimable glory of God (Jer 5:18-20). Idolatry rejects God and strikes at the heart of salvation by grace (Eph 2:1-23). God has assured us there is a time appointed when men will be judged by righteousness. Jesus' resurrection proved there is a God and He will ultimately call mankind into account for their actions (2 Cor 5:1-10). "...guard yourselves from idols" (1 Jn 5:21).

~Don Hatch

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, August 22, 2010**

**Front foyer:** Bill & Linda Matthews

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

### **Sunday, August 29, 2010**

**Front foyer:** Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

**Back foyer:** Thomas Rathbun

## Family News:

### MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

### MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

### SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Henry Seidmeyer will be speaking on "Is There Eternal Punishment, Eternal Heaven?" on **August 25<sup>th</sup>**. Bring a friend!

### NEW BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

The Fall quarter for Sunday morning begins **September 5<sup>th</sup>**; for Wednesday evening, **September 8<sup>th</sup>**. Teachers, please let Don know if you need material or supplies.

### LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

Ladies' class will resume on **September 14<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 with a lesson by Bill Matthews on "All That Glitters Is Not Gold", followed by a luncheon.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Mary Curtis'** lost her 97-year-old brother last week.

**Tim Tuttle** (Carol Partridge's son-in-law) also passed away last week of melanoma.

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Karen Epperson** (Garl Latham's sister) passed her certification on family counseling.

### THANK YOU

Thanks for the phone calls & cards during my son-in-law Tim's short illness & passing. The Tuttle & Partridge families.

### NEWS OF THE SICK

- Evelyn Armstrong** suffers with vertigo.
- Billie Beverly** did well with her stress test & is awaiting results.
- Jane Easter** underwent her first spine injection with two more to go; she is already getting some relief.
- BC Fowler** suffers with kidney problems.
- Grady Fowler's** pre-cancerous masses have returned.
- Jan Smithson** has been ill at home with an upper respiratory problem.
- Faye West** is still not doing well; she will see another doctor today (8/16).

·Ivy Paul (missionary from India) made it home safely, but is now hospitalized for illness & weakness.

### CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

### **Luke 1:46-56**

And Mary said:

My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy *is* His name. And His mercy *is* on those who fear Him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered *the* proud in the imagination of their hearts. He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones, and exalted *the* lowly. He has filled *the* hungry with good things, and *the* rich He has sent away empty. He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of *His* mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his seed forever." And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- August 22: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 25: Henry Seidmeyer: "Is There Eternal Punishment, Eternal Heaven?"

### **LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

#### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Thomas Rathbun
- Jerry Baker

#### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall
- Roy Martin
- Bobby England

### **SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Dean Webb
- John Mayer
- Bill Matthews

### **A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jerry Baker  
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

### **A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Darrell Allen

### **SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Glen Kelly
- Mike Garrison

### **P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Garl Latham  
Genesis 9:8-18

**P.M. SONG LEADER(S)**

· Jerry Baker (last song; Jerry McKey)

**LORD’S TABLE/EVENING**

· Bill Paschall  
· John Mayer

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

· 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         | 89               | 91               | 84              | 125         |
| A.M. Worship       | 148              | 147              | 148             | 210         |
| P.M. Worship       | 72               | 75               | 78              | 112         |
| Wed. Class         | 88               | 86               | 79              | 110         |
| Ladies Bible Class | -                | -                | 28              | 30          |
| Contribution       | \$4966           | \$4270           | \$5317          | \$5433      |

***MISSIONS***

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia
- Willie & Del 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 – Stephenville, TX
- Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
- Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
- Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
- Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
- Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
- Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
- Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India