

**April 7, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**April 13, 2008**

a.m. *"God Is Not Mocked"*

Scripture: Acts 13:44-52

p.m. *"The Whole Council of God"*

Scripture: Acts 20:26-35

**A Book of Faith Admits Trials- James**

Don Hatch

As the church of Christ began a notable circumstance developed. Jesus' brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas, born to His earthly parents Joseph and Mary are mentioned in the list of those who asked God to help the church select an apostle to replace Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:12-14; Mat 13:55; Mk 6:3). From the Gospel accounts we learn that these men did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, during His ministry (Jn 7:5; Mk 3:21). After Jesus' resurrection, his brothers believed in Him, becoming His followers along with His mother Mary. Jesus appeared to James to prove the actuality of His resurrection (1 Cor 15:7). James put his trust and faith in Jesus his half brother.

Eventually James will be a part of the settling of an issue about circumcision and the Mosaic Law (Acts 15:13-21). When there were questions about the salvation of the Gentiles James states clearly that their salvation was aforementioned in the prophets. He demonstrated that he was in accord with Peter, Paul and others emphasizing earlier revelation. The New Testament gives insight into James' life and role in the early Church. The decisions made in Jerusalem on this occasion became the consistent doctrine of the church. The gospel accounts mention James by name. The book of Acts provides evidence that he was an important figure in the Christian community. When James the apostle had been killed by Herod and Peter was miraculously released from prison he fled Jerusalem asking the disciples to inform James the brother of the Lord (Acts 12:17). When Paul went to Jerusalem he met with James and elders rehearsing one by one the things which God had worked among the Gentiles. Those who heard it glorified and praised God for the conversion of the Gentiles and Jews (Acts 21:17-26). Paul describes James and Peter as principle men in the congregation at Jerusalem (Gal 1& 2).

According Antiquities of the Jews by Josephus' (XX pg 595), James the brothers of Christ, along with others, were brought before the High Priest Ananus ben Ananus and the Sanhedrin. James and others were condemned and executed by stoning. This was generally accepted as the death which befell James. The renowned first century historians Eusebius and Hegesippus quote Josephus as proof of James' death.

The epistle of James has been traditionally attributed to James the brother of the Lord. James the apostle of Jesus had been slain earlier by Herod before the epistle of James was written (Acts 12). James appeals to his readers as "brethren". His writing is personal and warm, looking forward to with confidence that all those who read it will be given practical applications for Christian living. Some have called it a diatribe [bitter, abusive denunciation]. Such cannot be maintained. Their statements demonstrated that James' teachings touched a nerve leading

from the root of their immorality. James' writings are simplistic and filled with keenness, quickness of perception, discernment and ingenuity.

The early readers of James were thoroughly familiar with the Old Testament history of Abraham, Isaac, Rahab, Job and Elijah. Hence James wrote with the Jewish and Christians readers in mind. James alludes to the Law, Psalms and Prophets. He directs the reader's attention to all of these and exhorts them to be conversant with their usefulness as a tutor leading to faith (Gal 3:22-25). The believers were scattered among the nations (Jas 1:1). God's people confirm that they had fellowship with Christ by enduring trials on His behalf (Phil 3:1-17).

James reportedly spent hours in prayer and exhorts his brethren to follow the same habitual practice (1:1-7). Brethren were told that they did not receive because they asked "amiss" (Jas 4:1-10). Sickness, wellness and blessings are intertwined in prayer (Jas 5:13-2). Genuine prayer is based on trust and faith in God (Jas 5:16). In response to the prayers of the faithful God grants gifts of wisdom, supplies man's material needs and blesses beyond measure. Christians are encouraged to live their faith guided by God's revelation (1:19-27), conducting themselves equitably with their brethren (2:1-13), studying the Faith and working according to it's demands (2:14-26), monitoring the tongue (3:1-18), understanding how worldliness can destroy even the strongest (4:1-5) and that prayers of the faithful have a profound effect on all things (5:13-20). Those who love Christ are strengthened in their faith, increase in courage, evaluate and exercise spiritual duties. Pure religion must remain undefiled before God the Father (Jas 1:27). Trials and temptations of life are crisis which all will face and they must make spiritual determinations on how to sustain their own spiritual worthiness while helping others to survive outward and inward trials. Christianity is not a religion for capricious believers who base their life on a system of philosophical optimism which ignores the painful facts of life. The profession and practice of Christianity is more than claims. There must be evidence of faith expressed in godly work. Dead faith gives assent to facts but does not act. Living faith abounds in actions which are robust and bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. There is no proof that one has faith apart from fruits being borne. If one claims to have faith in God but lives a riotous life this faith is not real. The role of a teacher should never be underestimated (Jas 3). All teach by living their faith.

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message From Our Shepherds**

I ran across this the other day by Brother Gus Nichols and thought how true his words were then and now. It is always a time to reflect back over our lives and evaluate our efforts and support for the Lord's work.

#### **"I Never Intended To Quit"**

A man who had not attended one service of the church in four years told me he had never thought of "quitting" the church.

I reminded him that he had already (1) withdrawn his presence from its services, (2) refused to give his moral support to the activities of the congregation, and (3) had withdrawn his financial support, for he had not given one dime to help carry on the Lord's work.

I asked: "What else would one have to do in order to 'quit' the church? In case you ever decided that you no longer desire to be a member, what other steps would be necessary for you to take? Just what else would be necessary to 'quit' the church?"

As his true status dawned upon him, his expression reflected his sober thoughts. He replied, "Why, brother Nichols, I've already quit, haven't I? Well, I surely didn't mean to! And I don't know when I did it...but I've quit the Lord and His church! I'll tell you right now: I'm coming back!" He did, too. At the next service he was restored, and three years later he was still faithful.

Dear reader, how about you? Have you quit the Lord and His church without resolving to do so? Perhaps no one deliberately decides to quit, while many carelessly drift into backsliding.

If you have (1) quit attending the services, (2) quit boosting the program of activities planned by the elders, and (3) quit giving as God has prospered you to enable the congregation to meet its budget--you need to be restored.

By Gus Nichols

Again have a great week.

~ Jerry McKey

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **Only A Name**

Do you want to be a member of a church whose name is biblical? Do you want to belong to a church whose teachings come from Christ? Numbers of people say the name of the church does not matter. However the church must wear the appropriate name and teach the whole counsel of God to be spoken of as scriptural.

Christ purchased the church with His blood and has the right to name her (Act 20:28). She is the **church of Christ** (Rom 16:16; Matt 16:13-20), the **church of God** (1 Cor 1:2), **church of the Firstborn** (Heb 12:23), **body of Christ** (Col 1:24), **bride of Christ** (2 Cor 11:1, 2) and **house of God** (1 Tim 3:15). To receive salvation from God one must be in Christ and His church (Eph 1:3-23). A name makes a difference (Acts 4:12).

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the April 11, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

### **CALVARY**

From the portals of glory two millennia ago, descended God's Son to a world of woe; conceived in perfection and love divine, God, clothed in flesh, man's hope for all time;

Perfect in heart, His life free of sin, He was born for the cross, man's soul to win;

In lamb-like submission, His face marred with spittle, His back bowed in pain; Love drove Him on through the streets of the city, to pay with His blood for man's iniquity;

He was nailed to the cross and placed between thieves, Man's soul to save, God's wrath to appease; Even the sun in shame fled the sight – the Son of God dying on Golgotha's height;

On that day He arose from the dead, and now reigns with the Father, having died in our stead;

Calvary is God's portrait of grace, love and mercy, His promise of freedom from Satan's adversity.

~ Frank Chesser

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Brandon Thomason, Kenica Parish, Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

**Back foyer:** Bob & Gwen Bingham

### **Sunday, April 20, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor; Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

**Back foyer:** Paul & Bernice Guisinger

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

### **WORK DAY**

Don't forget that the Teens are planning a work day for **Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**. Please call Darrell Allen if you have chores to be added to the list.

### **THANK YOU**

We wish to thank Belt Line for all of the expressions of love, good wishes, & gifts that came our way at our recent wedding. Gary & Nadya Workman

### **LADIES**

Joann Hatch will be teaching a Ladies' class at 10:00 a.m. at Brown Trail on **Wednesday (4/9)**.

The afternoon Ladies' Bible Class will meet **this Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 4:45 p.m. in room #206.

Ladies' Bible Class will meet **Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. for a lesson by Vera Gleghorn on "Pearl of Great Price".

Invitations for Ladies' ½ Day may be found in the front foyer; please take what you need to mail or hand out to your friends.

### **WEDDING SHOWER**

Don't forget about the wedding shower for Kenica & Brandon this Saturday (4/12) in the Annex from 2pm-4pm. Please RSVP to Michelle Farmer, 972-514-2727.

### **ELDERS/DEACONS MEETING**

There will be an elders & deacons meeting this **Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00 p.m. in the church office.

### **A NOTE FROM THE ELDERS**

The elders would appreciate anyone having comments or suggestions to please express them directly to the eldership. Thanks!

### **WITH SYMPATHY**

**Jimmy Caudle** (Jean Kelly's brother) passed away last Friday; services were held this morning (4/7) in Waco.

**Gayle Ratliff's** (frequent visitor) grandmother passed away several days ago; Gayle has also been ill at home.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

√**Nancy Batot** is being treated for pain & a rash on an out-patient basis.

√**Bob Bingham** is scheduled for surgery on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

√**Gwen Bingham** has not felt well this week.

√**BC Fowler** was able to be in worship yesterday.

√**Judy Hancock** continues to undergo testing.

√**Maxine Prude** was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis.

√**Mary Scott** got a good report from her tests.

√**Jan Smithson** has been very ill at home.

√**Vern Daniel** (Janice's son) is scheduled for some grueling tests.

√**Bob Dodson** (former elder) is now under hospice care.

- √**Lewis Porter** (Marcella's brother) is scheduled for surgery on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- √**Bill Roses** (Polly's husband) will undergo a pet scan on Thursday (4/10).
- √**Mary Vaughan's** (Mary Curtis' new grandbaby) came home from the hospital this week-end.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Gardean Latham, Frances & Jack LaFerney, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Shirley Bryant (James Gilliam's sister), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Elizabeth Oliver (Becky Henry's sister), Nell Rogers (Carol Swinney's sister), Kent Smith (Beverly McKey's cousin), Earl Scott (Mary Scott's son), Nita Spencer (the Webb's niece), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Allen Taylor (the Taylor's grandson), Lewis Tomlinson (Nelda Bell Newton's son), Larry Toye, & our shut-ins.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

### **Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- Apr 12 – Shower for Brandon & Kenica in the Annex
- Apr 13 – Ladies' Class in room 206 at 4:45 p.m.
- Apr 13 – Elders/Deacons meeting in church office at 5:00 p.m.
- Apr 15 – Ladies' Class in the Annex at 9:30 a.m.
- Apr 19 – Teen Work Day
- Apr 26 – Ladies' ½ Day
- June – Summer Youth Series
- June 4-Aug 27 – Wed. Night Summer Series
- June 16 thru 18 –Vacation Bible School
- July – Cisco Youth Camp

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

### **Sunday morning:**

- Betty Ruckman

### **Sunday evening:**

- Sandy Hall

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

### **Front Table**

- James Gilliam
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Batot
- Bill Matthews
- Thomas Rathbun
- Dorris Walker

### **Rear Table**

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

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

- Jerry McKey
- Jerry Baker
- Rob Farmer

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

- Ty Harvey  
Acts 13:44-52

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

- Max Melton
- Bill Matthews

### **LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

### **COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Darrell Allen

### **FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET**

	<b><u>Last Week</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Avg.</u></b>	<b><u>Goal</u></b>
Sun. Class	98	95	96	125
A.M. Worship	172	171	170	210
P.M. Worship	83	83	92	112
Wed. Class	102	98	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	27	22	29	35
Contribution	\$4968	\$7320	\$5553	\$5400

### ***MISSIONS***

21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

Roland & Rose Mohsen – France

JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India

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

Ian & Mabel McPherson – Tasmania Australia

Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web

Ted & Mary 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