

November 3, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 9, 2008

a.m. *"Ye Did It Unto Me"*

Scripture: Mathew 25:31-34

p.m. *"Our Church?"*

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23

Heaven's Business

Don Hatch

Humanity passes through various phases by being alive. It is a privilege to always be on the move and never left behind. No sooner does the day begin than we are confronted with what has happened and wait for what will take place. The idea of journey is exciting. Where are we going? While considering this journey is good to see that we do not travel alone. Divinity has promised not to leave us, nor forsake us along the way (Heb 13:1-5; Mat 28:17-20). Often we are called to labor during this trip (1 Pet 2:11, 12). Often we are called upon to be water carriers to the thirsty. We have "living water" which other pilgrims need to sustain them along their journey. The happiest moment is when they are refreshed by this wonderful life giving refreshment. Being channels of blessings is an unimaginable and wonderful joy. The privilege of quenching a spiritual thirst goes beyond any service that can be rendered. Servants of the Lord do not complain about serving when they know what they are doing ultimately benefits the Lord. The strengthening of dear and sweet relationships on behalf of Christ is like no other blessing one can receive. Having holy deeds to accomplish always excites and guides the foot of a saint on the next mile of the road.

The Christian is best engaged if there is something to do on a daily basis. Selecting from the many tasks for which we are suited and able to accomplish is daunting. So much can be done and so few make themselves available to fulfill them. One would be blind indeed not to see the astonishing array of things to be done in Christ's name. Jesus humbled Himself, being obedient, taking the form of man and servant for all of mankind. No portrait of the Christian would be complete if it did not have service manifested as a prominent part of daily living. Wide spread apathy should not dissuade the house of faith from doing good works (Eph 2:1-10).

Paul's concluding remarks to the Ephesians' elders were, "And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified. I coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Ye yourselves know that these hands ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. In all things I gave you an example, that so laboring ye ought to help the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that he himself said, it is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:32-35). There is an innate strength which establishes the saint by confirming that Jesus was correct in the synopsis of the good news. This proverbial statement by the Lord reminds the recipient of grace to continually bless others by demonstrating a

cherished relationship with Jesus. God's greatest desire is to give. When man follows God's example, he receives divine blessings because he has demonstrated that God's children are commended (Mat 25:23). The act of giving is not snatching something for self but the dispensing of what has been freely given (Mk 10:45). The Christian shows to neighbors how God has blessed him by cheerfully giving (2 Cor 9:7). The New Testament praises the dignity and significance of the worker who employs himself in deeds of goodness.

Each should be stimulated by faith to posture one's life in a position where the inheritance they have is fully displayed to the world. Each should want to make others desire the same blessings which they have received. It is heaven's business to make all mankind see how blessed we are by our God. This is not "soft-pedaling" of Christianity, rather a joyous display of love. There is something in Christianity which is beyond mere happiness. When we look at the "whole of what we are" there is joy in doing heaven's business. Christians are the most realistic, who never make a "mountain out of mole hill". Christians are not ostentatious. Why should they be? They are those who have received the greatest blessing known to mankind, salvation (1 Cor 1:18-31). They can say, where no one else can, "I am redeemed". They expose their delight of being saved by the grace of God. Putting others first does not mean "tolerance", but means jointly shouldering the burdens of another (Gal 6:1-5). In a general sense the capacity to love and share is deepened within the limits of Christianity. The Law of Christ is a principle of lovingly laying down one's life for another. Christ is not publicized in any more profound manner than constantly looking for a means to be sympathetic and bearing one another's burdens. If anyone is to amount to anything in the Kingdom tenderness, meekness, and generosity must be manifested as fruits of righteousness (Eph 5:7-14).

Christians see themselves in the eyes of another as they watch us in our daily walk, conducting and accomplishing unrivaled feats of love. In an upside-down world where confusion and problems hem us in there seems to be a perpetuation of doom popularized by the non-Christian. Such is not the case. We can never out-give God because He never has "off-hours". Christians protract the serious **business of Heaven** by having an ever-present nature, which is a life-long desire to act like Jesus. "Beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, to abstain from fleshly lust, which war against the soul; having your behavior seemly among the Gentiles; that, wherein they speak against you as evil-doers, they may by your good works, which they behold, glorify God in the day of visitation" (1 Pet 2:11, 12). Heaven's business!

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

We are extremely blessed at Belt Line Road to have so many that want to do works for the Lord. Here is another opportunity to do a good work for our missionaries and our God.

When you were a youngster, you probably had a "pen pal". I would like to coordinate you with one of our many missionaries to help them know that we are concerned about them and to draw them closer to our congregation. Most of you have email as well do our missionaries. This is the most inexpensive and convenient communication ever devised for long distances.

Please contact or email me renfro.richard@att.net , if you are interested in participating in this program. It only takes a few minutes a month to encourage a missionary in a difficult land. I know that there are some who have already started contacting our missionaries via email and by an unbelievable free program "Skype" that allows video and audio directly with people on the other side of the world. There can be more than one member contacting one missionary.

If you do not have email, you can still participate through cards or letters. The elders have agreed to pay the postage, if you'll bring the letters to the office. Postage fees will vary per country, but Letitia said she would be glad to take care of it. I hope that you will help in this effort to see that every missionary has a "pen pal". "Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share." I Tim. 6:18.

We thank Dorris and Janie Walker for doing a wonderful job in coordinating the mission printing activities for the Belt Line Road congregation. We pray for Dorris in his cataract surgeries.

~ Richard L. Renfro

Hope

The Christian hope has three principles analogous to three columns. They are "faith, hope and love". Hope is characteristically Christian. It is an optimistic conviction that God helps Christians cope with life. Christians regards death in a serene light with composure. They have hope of the resurrection of the dead (1 Thes 4:13). Christians are on the way, not to death, but life. They have the hope of glory with God (Rom 5:2) and this hope is one of an eternal home (Jn 14:1-5). Despair is lifted from the heart of a Christian. The key-note of Christianity is hope. Righteousness and justification found in Christ shows Christianity as more than mere laws. It is eternal help to keep the precepts and principles while one leans on the promises, because God never forsakes the Christian (Heb 13:1-5). Hope is through grace. Hope is filled with joy. Hope keeps the Christian steadfast. Do you have the hope that is found in Christ? All are welcome!

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the November 6, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Gospel Meeting

The Gospel Meeting will prove to be far-reaching. Brother Robert Dodson preached outstanding sermons. We had a number of guests which said wonderful things about the friendliness and generosity of Belt Line Road church of Christ. With all the work done prior to and during the meeting it was a success by any measurement. Everyone is to be commended. The fellowship after Sunday evening services was a pleasant time for us to renew our acquaintance with Robert and Sherry. They are such a wonderful couple and serve the Lord well.

The lessons were taped and are available on cassettes or CDs. If you would like to have a copy please fill out a form and put it in Letitia's box. They will be in the sound room for you to pick up after Letitia dubs them. Letitia does such great work in the office. We appreciate her work and willingness to go the extra mile. The Song Leaders helped the meeting by planning and singing good songs. Everyone demonstrated that they wanted this meeting to be a success by attendance and participating. All are to be commended for a work well done. As the year is coming to a close we can look back with gladness and thankfulness for the many activities we as a congregation were able to participate in. ~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 9, 2008

Front foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer; Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, November 16, 2008

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney; Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

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 be held at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

IN APPRECIATION

Thank you so much for your prayers and concern for me during this time of testing; it turns out that I have a treatable condition and not cancer. I'm very blessed to be a part of this church family. Leo Townsend

LADIES

The **Sunday afternoon** Ladies' Class will meet in room #107 at 4:45 p.m.

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on **November 11th** at 9:30 a.m.

ROOF REPAIRS

Just a reminder, roof repairs will begin today (11/3) & will hopefully be completed by Wednesday. Please be especially careful around the outside of the building of the equipment that may be around for a few days.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

Don't forget the time change for Wednesday evening Bible Classes; they will now begin at **7:00 p.m.**

NOTES TO IVY PAUL

If you would like to send a sympathy card (or any other note) to Sister Paul for her loss of Brother Paul, please bring it to the office by Sunday where it will be bundled with others & sent by air mail. Thanks!

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Joann Hatch** underwent successful hip replacement surgery; she is home with home healthcare and therapy.

- **Billie Gilliam** is being treated for shingles.

- **Phoebe Latham** fell Friday night & cut her leg; she needed three stitches.

- **Kim Mayer** had a rough Thursday, but is now home resting after skin cancer surgeries.

- **Maxine Prude** will need injections in both jaws, once each week for the next 3 weeks for pain.

- **Dorris Walker** underwent cataract surgery last week.

- **Mack Dwyer** (Elizabeth Garrison's son) was hospitalized with pneumonia; he was released Friday.

- **George Ryon** (Ann's son) is in Baylor/Irving, CCU #7 following surgery on Saturday.

- **Kim Telepak** (the Ruckman's daughter) got a good report from a biopsy on Friday...no cancer!

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bingham, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), 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), Wayne Ruyle (Ilene Ashworth's son-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Nov 9: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15p.m.
- Nov 9: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Bible Class at 4:45 p.m. in room #107
- Nov 11: Tuesday morning Ladies' Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Betty Ruckman

Sunday evening:

- Samantha Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Stan Selby
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Grady Fowler
- Mike Batot

SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
Mathew 25:31-34

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Brandon Thomason
- Marvin Brown

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Garl Latham

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Ty Harvey

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	106	112	94	125
A.M. Worship	176	162	165	210
P.M. Worship	117	82	95	112
Wed. Class	93	108	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	18	30	22	35
Contribution	\$6002	\$7253	\$5415	\$5400

MISSIONS

21st 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 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