

August 9, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 15, 2010

a.m. "*Liberty in God's Law*"

Scripture: Psalm 119:89-96

p.m. "*In Praise of Love*"

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Divine Revelation

Don Hatch

The nature of "divine revelation" defines how the Bible will be received. What is meant by divine revelation? What are the conditions on which the possibilities of it occurring depend? The **first truth** that is implied will be that the being of God is a Personal and Conscious, Intelligent Being. Atheism excludes God and the possibilities of revelation. If there is not a God there cannot be communication with man. Such leaves the world to be started by a blind mechanical, unconscious fate. Fate cannot be a source of an intelligent message. All faith in the **divine revelation** implies "there is a God in heaven that is self-concealed and self-revealed". God is the unseen Law Giver who is capable of making known His everlasting will to mankind. The true character of God is only revealed in His designs. His messages are never contradictory or impossible. A full and adequate knowledge of God, apart from revelation, is unquestionably deniable. God seeks fellowship with His creation. Revelation is the reality of created existence. Those who receive His revelation as a divine message do not stumble at the threshold of wisdom from above (Jas 3:13-18). Whenever the Spiritual and Scriptural ideas of creation are replaced by those of emanations or development, such as natural forces, the results are Pantheism or Atheism and exclude revelation. If mankind is only a pulsation of life in the universe, created by a blind force, it is illogical that there would be a case made for morality. Yet, there is a strong case to be made that mankind is a group moral beings.

God's absolute dominion and infinite greatness makes it possible that He could reveal Himself to His creature, man. God is not constrained by His eternal being to withhold His will from man. On the contrary, it is His purpose to make mankind know His will. He bridged the immense chasm of time and space to make mankind know His will. The finite can be instructed in the Infinite's will. For God to remain unknown would be contradictory to every analogy in all fields of science. Created existence is the middle ground between nonentity and the Absolute Being. Knowledge of God demonstrates a nescience [lacking of knowledge] compelling mankind to seek an understanding of Omniscience. The real genius of revelation is that it creates faith in the Divine Creator. The statement, "we know in part", applies impartially to all fields of knowledge (1 Cor 13:9). Knowledge of God is within the grasp of all mankind for it is within His revelation. In all cases where knowledge is greatest, far more than that which is learned remains to be known. God's purpose is made known to mankind and mankind is

capable of learning and knowing the truth of God. Mankind is distinguishably different from the brute beast because of its unique being. Mankind can exercise intelligence, the power to reason and respect Divine Law. If not mankind would be an absurdity. God said, "come now let us reason together", portraying the capacity of mankind to discern divine authority. God was in the beginning, remains and has ability to communicate so His divine knowledge becomes the requisite for faith.

Mankind has an access to God through the avenues He established. It is the duty of man to obtain knowledge of God. God is not limited, partial or capricious. The life of faith is not a soliloquy [line from a drama]. It is a sallying forth into the spiritual world wherein mankind finds true fulfillment. The power of Christianity is that God revealed special and distinctive knowledge to a world-wide audience so that fallen mankind could be reconciled to Him by the blood of Jesus Christ (2 Cor 5). The light of God shines through His natural works to penetrate the world of man. God with signs, wonders, and manifold means broke through the monotony of nature and gave revelation (Heb 2:1-10). The divine message carries with it the necessities for the souls of mankind. God secured every step toward the long promised consummation of restoring fallen mankind to fellowship with Him. Christianity claims to be a special and supernatural revelation, implies and presupposes the great doctrine of salvation via Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God. Whenever revelation is denied the **absurdity of a godly character** will become prevalent.

Once admitted that God was in the beginning, that mankind is fallen and apostate, the need for regeneration, restoration, salvation and reconciliation dominate. **Once accepted that God was in the beginning**, Christianity is no longer a paradox, strange or an incredible outgrowth of fate, but a divinely revealed manner of life. The salvation brought to mankind is not an afterthought of God. He planned for us to have fellowship with Him from the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-15; 2 Cor 5:14-7:1). Christianity gives light to all who are in darkness and in the shadow of death, guiding us to peace with God. Mankind needs divine revelation. Serious thinkers do not dismiss a need for a source of moral and spiritual guidance.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

The missionaries we are in contact with and who are reporting back to us are doing an outstanding job teaching the Gospel to those who have never heard it. Now, through the efforts of those working with Mission Printing making more materials available to Christians and non-Christians are also doing a great work. These materials are written by some our most faithful and well taught brethren who rightly divide the word of truth. On Sunday afternoons in the junior auditorium you can learn more about our efforts being put forth towards preparing materials for this work. Please come by and pitch in when you can.

We have a wonderful group of teachers that prepare interesting and needful lessons each week for all of us. We commend them for their outstanding love and effort to share with us more of God's true Word.

The Gospel is truth: In the Ephesian epistle Paul said, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man "truth" with his neighbor: for we are members one of another" (Eph 4:25). Christians are admonished to put away falsehood and speak that which is truth (real & complete). Paul also said, "to whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you" (Gal. 2:5). This Gospel (truth) is God's Word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). The truth is God's word active which must be obeyed as first century Christians obeyed according to I Peter 1:22, where Peter said, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren". Jesus said if a man desires to enter the Kingdom of God, he must be born again" (John 3:5). James tells us that we are begotten (born again) by the word of God, "Of his own will begat he us with the Word of truth" (James 1:18). We are to walk in the truth as Gaius, "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth" (John 3:3).

We must remember the responsibility of not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25). When we do our part, we are obeying the Lord's commandments. Mark 12:30-31 says, "and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment". "And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is no other commandment greater than these".

Keep our sick & shut-ins in your prayers. Have a great week serving God!

~Dean Webb

"Putting away therefore all wickedness, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, long for the spiritual milk which is without guile, that ye may grow thereby unto salvation; if ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious: unto whom coming, a living stone, rejected indeed of men, but with God elect, precious, ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet 2:1-5).

TRUST IN THE LORD

"As I exhorted thee to tarry at Ephesus, when I was going into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine, neither to give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questionings, rather than a dispensation of God which is in faith; so do I now. But the end of the charge is love out of a pure heart and a good conscience and faith unfeigned: from which things some having swerved have turned aside unto vain talking; desiring to be teachers of the law, though they understand neither what they say, nor whereof they confidently affirm. But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully, as knowing this, that law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and unruly, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for abusers of themselves with men, for menstealers, for liars, for

false swearers, and if there be any other thing contrary to the sound doctrine; according to the gospel of the glory of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust” (1 Tim 1:3-11).

Paul exhorts Timothy to consider the sound doctrine and not give heed to fables, endless genealogies and questions which generate confusion rather than unity (Eph 4:1-16). Timothy is to keep on guard seeking to preserve God’s standards and faith. A pure heart [without admixture] develops a religious conscience. A conscience is knowledge of righteousness borne out of one’s conduct. It has apprehended the will of God. God’s knowledge was designed to govern our lives giving us a sense of guiltiness and need for forgiveness of sin. He gives an awareness of forgiveness when one has been obedient to Him. A conscience is the process of thought which considers moral goodness or badness. It commends good and condemns bad. A good conscience prompts the choice of good. It causes moral scruples. A good conscience places importance on trusting in God and His teachings.

Paul charges Timothy to have pure heart. Pure means to be free from defilement or contamination. Testing all things in “daylight” is a way of discovering what is sincere and pure. A faith unfeigned is sincere and is expressed in a wholesome manner. There is no subterfuge in true faith. Those who teach the “doctrine” must have a life free from contamination of the world. Teaching truth is never neutral. It is an active role of living and instructing in righteousness. Confidence arises from personal practice of godliness. The law of Christ is included in the law of the Spirit, law of liberty and royal law (Rom 8:1-5; Jas 1:19-27; 2:1-13; Gal 6:1-5). There can be no doubt that godliness is practiced by those who are charged to maintain the purity of the gospel. The law of God is good if an individual use it correctly. Those who are lawless, unruly, ungodly sinners, unholy, profane, murderers of fathers and mothers, manslayers, fornicators, abusers of themselves with men, menstealers, liars and false swearers find the law too severe and restrictive. The “good news” is that Jesus can set the captive free. Surrendering to Christ in obedience to the first principles of the oracles of God assures that the obedient will have their senses exercised to discern between that which is good or evil (Heb 5:11-14). Trust in the Lord with all your heart and obey His will.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 15, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, August 22, 2010

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Back foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

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

Gary Fallis will be speaking on "Will There Be a Judgment?" on **August 18th**. Bring a friend!

DIRECTORY DELETION

Please delete Gale Ratcliff from your directory as she is moving to Waco.

NEW BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

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

39'ers

The 39'ers will meet on Monday, August 16th at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck meal. Join the fun & fellowship.

THANK YOU

Dear Belt Line family, last week was a very difficult time for us. You blessed us with love, kindness, visits, & many prayers. We cannot express our appreciation enough. Thanks & God bless all, Dorris & Janie Walker.

WITH SYMPATHY

Darrell Allen lost an uncle to lung cancer last week.

Evelyn Looper (Nancy Pond's cousin) passed away of Alzheimer's; services will be tomorrow in Cleburne.

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Billie Beverly** will undergo a chemical stress test on Thursday.

•**Faye West** is confined to home due to lack of strength to move about; doctors are making tests.

•**Priscilla Mayer** (John's mother) has moved in with her brother-in-law & sister-in-law.

•**Betty Watson** (former member) will undergo a biopsy to determine if a mass is cancerous.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

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

1 Corinthians 13; The Greatest Gift

¹ Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. ² And though I have *the gift of prophecy*, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ And though I bestow all my goods to feed *the poor*, and though I give my body to be burned,^[a] but have not love, it profits me nothing. ⁴ Love suffers long *and* is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; ⁵ does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; ⁶ does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; ⁷ bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. ⁹ For we know in part and we prophesy in part. ¹⁰ But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. ¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. ¹² For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. ¹³ And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- August 15: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 18: Gary Fallis: "Will There Be a Judgment?"

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
- Glen Kelly
- Richard Renfro

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen
Psalm 119:89-96

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Stan Selby

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Nathan Allen
1 Corinthians 12:27-31

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Darrell Allen (last song; Denzil Myers)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Bill Paschall
- John Mayer

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	80	89	83	125
A.M. Worship	135	148	148	210
P.M. Worship	81	72	78	112
Wed. Class	89	88	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	30
Contribution	\$6197	\$4966	\$5349	\$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