

August 2, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 8, 2010

a.m. *"Good Tidings of Great Joy"*

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

p.m. *"What Shall I Render"*

Scripture: Psalm 116:12-19

Genesis Affirms God

Don Hatch

Genesis states "In the beginning God..." It affirms the existence of God. Atheists deny God claiming that it is inconceivable that there is an eternal being. However, denying an eternal reality is impossible. Out of nothing comes nothing! If at one time in the past nothing existed, there would still be nothing. Something is. **There was something, better yet Someone was.** The choice is not between an eternal reality and a non-eternal reality. One must choose between the natures of reality. The eternal reality is either dead matter or a living being [Spirit]. Agnostics do not deny a reality. They say that man cannot know or make a rational decision between the two realities. If there is no reasonable grounds for making a decision between dead matter and a living Spirit the position is unreasonable. There cannot be a middle ground. There is a God or there is no God. No meaning can be given to life if there is no means to make a choice between dead matter and God. The decision between faith in God and unbelief in a Creator is that unthinking matter produced a living being who can think [man] or a God who created man.

The evidence for God is sustained by reason and evidence. The effort to construct a meaningful life without hope of eternal life plagues the atheist and agnostic. Non-conscious matter cannot give guidance in the area of morals, help one to reflect, power to predict, plan or hope. Non-conscious matter cannot teach mankind to speak, read, write or create a book. Man does think, speak, write and there are libraries on countless subjects. It is unreasonable to think that non-conscious matter could create the brain of man. Matter in man thinks, reasons, ponders, chooses, plans and is moral. A rock cannot do this. Matter is bound by forces of nature which have no moral choices inherent within them. If a tree falls and kills a small child do we put the tree in prison for life. Yet, if a man kills a man there are clear moral implications. Why?

The Bible constitutes proof of the existence of God and a Divine mind. Mankind needs to know that God has revealed Himself to man and revelation is the precursor to duty and destiny. Genesis affirms a monotheism [one God] denying the pagan polytheism [many gods]. The universe is not God [pantheism]. God created everything, not the other way around. Everything is not the divine being and the divine being is not everything. God is not an eternal idea. **God is a creator.** The creation is not an emanation from God. Man is God's crowning

climax of creation. It is obvious that the Creator has all authority over creation. In broad terms God told man what to do and in specific terms what not to do. Throughout history we find God exercising His authority as lawgiver. **God is judge.** This flows out of the fact of who announces the penalty to be demanded for sin [Christ's blood]. God pronounced and executed penalties upon the world in the antediluvian world and upon those of the postdiluvian world [Cain, Noah, and Ham].

God is concerned about man. He did not turn His back on sinful man. God placed provisions for Adam and Eve taking the initiative to redeem them. He made provisions for redemption because there had to be atonement for sin. Such manifest the seriousness of sin and the commitment and love of God for His creatures. **God is a Redeemer.** Animal sacrifices were offered in the Old Testament but were not sufficient to redeem mankind from sin. They were typical to be replaced with the "lamb of God" who took away sin (Jn 1:29; 35). Isaiah 53 and the New Testament show that the animal sacrifices typified the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

God is a provider. He has provided for mankind all things. Moreover, He has granted all things that pertain unto life and godliness (2 Pet 1:3-11). God is a God of providence. He cares and supplies provisions for mankind. God works behind the scenes, weaving into life beauty in the midst of the most calamitous times. God's unseen, overruling hand in providence culminates in the display of His love for mankind (1 Jn 3:1-7). God continues to give, answer prayers and give abundantly, above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. His special favor is bestowed upon the church (Eph 3:20, 21). Outstanding cases of God's providence are Abraham, Joseph, David and Daniel. Throughout the ages there is testimony to divine care and love.

God is righteous. He will always do that which is right. God's faithfulness essentially demonstrates His righteousness. His truthfulness and consistency exhibit His nature and give credence to His promises. His righteousness is revealed in the death of Christ which is sufficient to show men that God is neither indifferent to sin nor regards it lightly (Rom 3:25). On the contrary, His righteousness, demonstrated by His holiness, must find expression in His condemnation of sin. "There is therefore no condemnation to them that are in Christ" (Rom 8:1). The preaching of the gospel confirms the righteousness of our God and Saviour (Jas 1:20; 3:18; 2 Pet 1:1). The righteous dealings of God with sin and sinners is based on the grounds of the death of Christ (Heb 5:13). The scriptures contain the gospel, wherein is declared the righteousness of our God in all its aspects.

God is a covenant maker. Covenants are agreements, significant of mutual undertaking, between two parties with binding obligations. God keeps His covenants. Disciples of Christ must keep their covenant with God.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

The Belt Line congregation has always maintained support to carry on its work without desperation. The elders highly commend you and hopefully we'll be able to continue our good works keeping the tradition of very limited special contributions. Belt Line has always arisen to

every special need that has been presented to the congregation by the eldership in years gone by. Therefore, by your generosity and love for the truth makes Belt Line a God fearing shining light in the brotherhood and community.

Every effort being put forth at Belt Line is dedicated to teaching and preaching truth. Our teachers, our preachers and our members are totally committed to having God's truth taught in a pure and understanding way to build us up, and convict and convert the lost.

Truth is the most precious commodity on the market. The wise man Solomon said, "buy the truth, and sell it not" (Prov. 23:23). All truth comes from God for God cannot lie (Tit. 1:2). All falsehood comes from the Devil, who is a liar with no truth in him (John 8:44).

Christ, the Son of God, told the people of His day, "ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8: 32). It is truth that men must believe and obey to be saved (I Pet. 1:22). It is the truth by which men must live, and it is the truth by which men will someday be judged (John 12:48). The only reason for believing and practicing any religious doctrine is because it is the truth. Truth is absolute and is not changed by what men think about it. Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

The elders are very concerned about our attendance records over the past few months. It just seems more of us could be attending if we put forth the effort. True, we have several that are just not able and would like to be present. The concern is being directed to those able but not willing. Let us all pray about this situation..... do a self examination, and see if the results can't be greatly improved. Hope to see everyone possible at every meeting time! You are sorely missed and missing out!

Pray for all our sick and shut-in and have a great week serving God!

~Dean Webb

TRUST IN THE LORD

"Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. For if a man thinketh himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let each man prove his own work, and then shall he have his glorying in regard of himself alone, and not of his neighbor. For each man shall bear his own burden". But let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth unto his own flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth unto the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not be weary in well-doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of the faith" (Gal 6:1-10).

"The words of Agur the son of Jakeh; The oracle. The man saith unto Ithiel, unto Ithiel and Ucal: Surely I am more brutish than any man, And have not the understanding of a man; And I have not learned wisdom, Neither have I the knowledge of the Holy One. Who hath ascended up into heaven, and descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in his garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou knowest? Every word of God is tried: He is a shield unto them that take refuge in him. Add thou not unto his words, Lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. Two things have I asked of thee; Deny me them not before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lies; Give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is needful for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is Jehovah? Or lest I be poor, and steal, And use profanely the name of my God" (Prov 30:1-9).

"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him...". The Bible gives testimony to the word of God. It is pure and capable of being used to establish morality and equip disciples with spiritual guidance (2 Pet 1:1-11). God has given a living hope according to His great mercy and begets saint into a living anticipate of the resurrection of the dead through Jesus Christ (1 Pet 1:3-12). Faith is proved and tested like gold. Those who smelt gold must watch the process continually or the gold will be destroyed by the fire used to purify it. Faith is watched over by God and purified by the circumstances of life. Smelting is a **metallurgy** term where the metal is extracted from raw ore. Using extreme heat the slag is removed and a pure useable metal remains. God refines and purifies His servants. In the crucible of life saints are refined, becoming useful to the Lord (Col 1:12). God's word is pure and His servants love it (Psm 119:140). The word of the Lord is "tired" or "tested" and has been proven perfect by the fires of time (Psm 18:30). God is a perfect "shield" for the soul of man. The wisdom of God is from above and pure. This wisdom beseeches disciples to be peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits and without hypocrisy (Jas 3:13-18). Mankind is warned not to add to the word of God lest He reprove them (Rev 22:18, 19).

God's ways are perfect. Disciples walk carefully, not as unwise. They redeem the time knowing the days are evil, understanding the will of God is an imperative. They speak one to another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with a melody in their hearts giving thanks always in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ subjecting themselves one to another in reverence of God (Eph 5:15-21). The Christian is like the writer of proverbs desiring that God would not allow them to be caught in the extremes of poverty or riches where they might deny the Lord by profaning His name. They ask that falsehoods will be removed and that they can feed on the word of the Lord, which is needful to their salvation (1 Pet 2:1-5; Heb 5:11-14). They realize that things true, pure, honorable, just, lovely, have a good report, virtue or praiseworthy are valued items to think upon. Stressed in the word of God is His protection for His children. Trust in the Lord. He will provide.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, August 8, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Sunday, August 15, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

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.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

The Summer Youth Series on **August 10th** will be at the College Street Church of Christ. Meet at the McKey's house at 5:30 p.m. for a ride.

SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING

Ed McGeachy will be speaking on "Will Christ Come Again?" on **August 11th**. Bring a friend!

NEW BIBLE STUDY

Don Hatch is teaching "Practical Lessons of Permanent Value" from the Minor Prophets; they are being taped.

Beginning **August 8th**, Jerry McKey will begin a new study on "Encouraging Statements in the Bible" in **room #116**.

LUBBOCK LECTURESHIP

The Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock is holding their Lectureship **October 10-13, 2010** on "Walk in the Light". See the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

LADIES INTREAT

The Keller Church of Christ is hosting their annual Ladies Intreat on Saturday, **September 11**, 2010 from 9:30a.m. – 12:30 p.m. with guest speaker Susan Langford. See the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

PRAYER CONCERN

Ramiro Alvarez (the Spanish minister for the Rural Hill Church of Christ in Antioch, TN) has a brother, Roberto, who is also a dedicated brother in Christ and lives in Guatemala. Roberto is receiving threatening phone calls telling him that if he doesn't pay an extortion fee, his family's lives are in danger. Please pray for this missionary family; Roberto has a wife and three children from the ages of 14-20 years.

Also, the brethren in Laos are being persecuted by the Communist authorities.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Billie Beverly** sees the cardiologist tomorrow (8/3).
- Jane Easter** is having back & leg trouble & waiting on x-ray results.
- The Garrisons** request prayers as they travel Aug. 7-20.
- Don & Judy Hancock** have both been ill at home.
- Dorris Walker** is in Baylor/Irving, room #402 following surgery.
- Everett Newton** is now home.
- Faye West** is home recuperating following a stay in the hospital last week for a probable heart attack.
- Tom Gierling** (former member) is recuperating from an accident while on patrol last week.
- Clemma Ruble** (Thomas Rathbun's sister) has been hospitalized in Tulsa.
- Susan Keller** (Harold's daughter-in-law) has also been hospitalized to determine her problem.
- David Odom family** request prayers.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, 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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- August 8: New study in room #116
- August 8: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 10: Summer Youth Series, College Street
- August 11: Ed McGeachy: "Will Christ Come Again?"

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
- Jerry Baker

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
- Luke 2:8-20

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Myers
- Darrell Allen

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
- Psalm 116:12-19

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Bill Paschall
- John Mayer

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Bill Paschall

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	91	80	83	125
A.M. Worship	155	135	148	210
P.M. Worship	74	81	78	112
Wed. Class	95	89	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	30
Contribution	\$4851	\$6197	\$5320	\$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