

January 25, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

January 31, 2010

a.m. *"Two Covenants"*

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

p.m. *Fifth Sunday Singing*

VALUE OF CHRISTIANITY

Christianity has nothing to fear from her adversaries. Controversies or errors of her opponents cannot permanently damage her. In spite of foes she will ultimately prevail upon the earth and have her claims honored. From true reasoning she fears no evil, but confidently anticipates help from above. Just men who reason things out eventually find that Christianity is not in conflict with morals and goodness. Working in her own sphere of influence Christianity stands side by side with contemporary companions who labor together for the common good of mankind. The passing of centuries prove that when evil men reproach Christianity the Christian will find aid from God's mighty hand. When Christianity is considered in clear daylight, fully searched and scrutinized in the course of history by philosophy and experts of all scientific fields, Christianity manifests itself as the Way, Truth and Life. The more the vastness of her moral fiber is tested, the more her strength as an immovable form of purity is seen. Christianity has greatness. It is not in gimmicks and fraudulent "modernism". Her greatness is maintaining the "Ancient Order".

True Christianity has nothing to hide. She has no secrets or darkness. Men may stumble and fail but the cause for which they aspire to promote remains a pure and righteous cause undaunted or altered by a single individual. When true Christians succumb to temptations they know there is a resource greater than all of their sins. The blood of Jesus Christ saves and proves to be an agency of redemption for the "once redeemed". Returning to the first century for faith and practice is invaluable. Therein the church finds her roots. Whatsoever is more than the Bible is too much and what is less than the Bible is not enough. The church stands or falls upon the Bible as her sole guide for the soul. Therefore, there is the claim that Divine stability and buoyancy is found in the plenitude of God's righteousness.

Unabashedly Christianity can meet any and all enemies in the clear light of day by boldly challenging all to examine her claims and practices. The Book is the strong and faithful Word of God which has never failed the test of time. Christianity has manifested greatness. Being tormented tested and tried but from the blood of martyrs which refreshed the roots of liberty and righteousness. She arises in a "phoenix-like" growth to a noble and divine purpose. Infidelity is eager to claim victory and fancy that they have destroyed her. Repeatedly there

appear those who are willing to proclaim God's gospel. The antichrist is haughty singing mocking songs of premature defeat. God will be magnified and all knees will bow before the King. Like her Lord, in spite of earth, hell or persecution, the victory has been won. The furious tempests arise but the Lord can still say "peace be still". Christianity's majestic truth, transparent nobility of conscience, rectitude and goodness is a force to be reckoned. To her belongs the weight with which loveliness and purity wherein she can contend with the powers of darkness in calm hope.

Whether she is in conflict with arrogant worldly practices, prejudices, proud philosophies, pseudoscience, haughty higher critics or boastful false religions, Christianity remains the most reasonable path upon which to tread. All principalities and rulers of darkness of this world will find that the church wears an armor specifically designed by God to defend her (Eph 6:10-20). Her heaven forged weapons have a spiritual power of perseverance. She spurns all props, carnal wisdom or cowardly expediencies of the imbecility of the world. Her task is to remain a repository of The Faith which was delivered into her custody. She withstands ungodly men who change the truth of the gospel. God dwells in the midst of her, nothing shall be moved, the Lord is her helper and no power on earth will prevail!

The primary and supreme belief by the church must be that the Bible is the inspired word of God and that it alone reveals the Christ of the gospel. Within its pages are found the ways and means to persist in the face of the raging of infidels. The Bible arises as the supreme and time honored avenue for the church to follow. Nothing will impugn the way of holiness wherein she walks. Assailants, scornful rejection and uninspired teachers fail at last to prevail. The church has a firm foundation of God, having a certain seal that the Lord knows those who are His and they have departed from unrighteousness pursuing righteousness, faith, love, peace, and purity. The tide of passion of our time must be stronger, never surrendering to the wiles of the devil. Christ and Christianity are inestimable and enduring when The Truth is prominent. Christianity is not an experimental religion. Her worth has been proven in the heat of battle. Christianity is a positive religion with grander and is more wonderful than any idea or concept man can devise. Christianity is a system of truth which is her chief-cornerstone and foundation, giving unity to the believers. The preeminence of Christ distinguishes the characteristics which Christians apply to their lives. Christians know that making less of Scriptures and more of doctrines of men will damage Christianity. Searching the Scriptures leads one to eternal life in Christ. Every "jot and tittle" will remain and all will be accomplished. Christianity recognizes that Christ, His Word, the Church and faithfulness bind us to the past and lead us into the future with confidence. Mere Christianity is of great value!

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

The elders would like to thank Mike and Elizabeth Garrison on the fine job they do cleaning our building and making it comfortable at each service. Especially, we want to thank Mike for doing so many repairs and replacements of broken and worn items throughout our facility. He has saved us thousands of dollars in handyman calls. Ask him about last week's adventure with our baptistery. We thank both of you for your dedication and support of the Lord's work here at Belt Line.

~ The Elders

Some Things Sinners Learn Too Late (Lk 16:19-31)

I. Torment Begins at Death

A. Man is in God's image (Genesis 1:26); therefore, spirit. Man is immortal — eternal — personality — never dies.

1. Read of mortal and immortal bodies (Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 15:53), but not of mortal and immortal soul.
2. He was conscious, recognized, remembered. He said, "I am tormented in this flame." It was "a place of torment".
3. Death is not a "dreamless sleep".

II. Torment Is a Reality

A. Would have a hard time trying to convince the rich man that the torment was not real. He was enduring the flame and was suffering.

B. Why argue about what hell is? Why try to take the fires out of hell? New Testament still talks about this place.

1. Matthew 25:41.
 2. Matthew 25:30.
 3. Revelation 14:11.
 4. Mark 9:43-48.
 5. I don't intend to go there anyway. Don't want to go.
- C. The torment he endured then, he still endures.

III. It Was Too Late to Pray

A. Prayer is so often abused — a waste of time, actually.

B. "Father Abraham, have mercy on me." "Send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame." "I pray thee therefore, Father that thou wouldest send him to my father's house... "

1. Not a single desire was granted.
 2. Hosea 13:14.
 3. Isaiah 55:6, 7.
- C. Every request would have been granted in life.

IV. Too Late to be Mission-Minded

A. "For I have five brothers..." Luke 16:27,28.

B. He knew what they needed: Luke 16:30.

C. We know the same but do not believe we'll be lost if we do not do them.

V. There is No Second Chance

A. "...there is a great gulf fixed; so that they..."

VI. Warnings Come From God's Word

A. "If they will not hear Moses and the prophets... they have Moses and the prophets... they would not hear though one rose for the dead..."

B. Hebrews 9:27; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10, 12; John 12:48.

VII. Even a Child of God Can be Lost

A. This man a Jew — "Father Abraham" — "Son, remember..."

B. Revelation 2:10; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Matthew 10:22; Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20; 1 John 1:9; Acts 8:13-24.

Curtis Camp, a preacher from the past, via, **The Voice Of Truth International**, Editor Bryon Nichols [Vol 62 (2009)]

WHERE IS WISDOM?

“Surely there is a mine for silver, and a place for gold which they refine. Iron is taken out of the earth, and copper is molten out of the stone. Man setteth an end to darkness, and searcheth out, to the furthest bound, the stones of obscurity and of thick darkness. He breaketh open a shaft away from where men sojourn; they are forgotten of the foot; they hang afar from men, they swing to and fro. As for the earth, out of it cometh bread; And underneath it is turned up as it were by fire. The stones thereof are the place of sapphires, and it hath dust of gold. That path no bird of prey knoweth, neither hath the falcon's eye seen it: The proud beasts have not trodden it, nor hath the fierce lion passed thereby. He putteth forth his hand upon the flinty rock; He overturneth the mountains by the roots. He cutteth out channels among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing. He bindeth the streams that they trickle not; And the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light. But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The deep saith, it is not in me; And the sea saith, it is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire. Gold and glass cannot equal it, Neither shall it be exchanged for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or of crystal: Yea, the price of wisdom is above rubies. The topaz of Ethiopia shall not equal it, neither shall it be valued with pure gold. Whence then cometh wisdom? And where is the place of understanding? Seeing it is hid from the eyes of all living, and kept close from the birds of the heavens. Destruction and Death say, we have heard a rumor thereof with our ears” (Job 28:1-20).

Job said, mankind searches for wisdom and compares it to precious jewels, refined gold and silver. None of the haunts of men in the bowers of the earth reveal wisdom, it cannot be mined as silver, gold or stones that are rare. The labor which will produce wisdom is not interminable digging in the earth. Wisdom is far above the value of rubies and topaz. The brute beasts pass over the earth and take no note of precious metals or stones of great value. They are incapable of seeing such value. Mankind values wealth but puts little emphasis on wisdom from above (Jas 3:13-18). In the garden of Eden Satan beguiled Eve into thinking that the knowledge of “good and evil” would make her and Adam like God. It did not. However, God had always made available for mankind a wisdom from above which teaches faithful responsibility on the part of mankind.

As mankind pursues gold, silver and precious stone with arduous labor, they should put more time into knowing wisdom. Wisdom is not mined, but comes from the mind of God. It is not a commodity to be purchased on a campus of education. It must be derived from time spent in the word of God. God understands the ways of knowledge and wisdom. “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Prov 1:7-19). The holy writ contains the wisdom of God and it will guide mankind to the highest values of life, far above rubies.

If one desires wisdom, real wisdom, he must find it in the fear of the Lord, departing from all evil and surrendering heart, soul and mind unto the Lord. "But if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all liberally, and upbrideth not; and it shall be given him" (Jas 1:5-8).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Jamie & Megan Little

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

SINGING SESSION

The **Sunday afternoon** singing session will meet in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

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

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **February 2nd** at 11:00 a.m. with a lesson by Roberta Price on Self Control followed by a luncheon.

Ladies, if you were unable to make the Ladies' Day meeting last week & would like to participate, please sign one of the sheets on the table in the front foyer.

LECTURESHIP

Don't forget about the Shenandoah Lectureship February 12-15.

THANK YOU

Dear Belt Line Family, it is very comforting to be receiving your cards, letters, & call but most of all, your continuing prayers as I go through treatment of this cancer. We are most blessed to know our prayers are both heard & answered and to be content no matter what the answer is. Virgil & I miss you all and send our love & thanks. Your sister in Christ, Sandi Greene

OPERATION TEDDY BEAR

Bear work in the Annex will take place every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month immediately following Ladies' Bible class.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Evelyn Armstrong** may possibly go home this week.
- Charlene Carroll** was released from the hospital & is now permanently living with her daughter, Gaylen Rhudy at 905 Dana Dr.; Keller, TX 76248. She will be back in worship when she's able.
- Grady Fowler** will undergo surgery soon.
- Jamie Little** will soon undergo surgery: schedule to be determined.
- Alyssa Alcala** (the Henry's great granddaughter) was taken to the ER with severe stomach pain.
- Amy Harris** (the Henry's neighbor) has been diagnosed with a severe heart problem.
- John Williams** (Bobbie Williams' son) has stage 4 cancer in several places; cards may be mailed to 3511 Morgan Creek Dr.; Venus, TX 76084.

Continuous Prayer Concerns:

Evelyn Armstrong, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Kati Mimms, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries).

"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. *It is* like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"

~ Mark 13:32-37

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- January 31: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- January 31: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- February 2: Ladies' Bible class with luncheon at 11:00 a.m.
- February 12: Shenandoah Lectureship

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Rob Farmer
- John Mayer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Virgil LaFerney
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Denzil Myers
- Glen Kelly

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Rob Farmer
- Mark 12:28-34

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Matthews
- Darrell Allen

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Marvin Brown
- Thomas Rathbun

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	82	98	87	125
A.M. Worship	151	159	143	210
P.M. Worship	75	86	81	112
Wed. Class	78	79	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	19	24	19	35
Contribution	\$5391	\$4755	\$5531	\$5474

MISSIONS

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India

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 – Stephenille, TX

Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India

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 – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation

Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India