

March 1, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

March 7, 2010

a.m. "*Hope Which Sees*"

Scripture: Romans 4:13-24

p.m. "*Man's True Life*"

Scripture: Luke 12:13-21

The Bible Is A Complete Treasure Trove

Don Hatch

The Bible is a complete digest of all spiritual truths as it pertains to temporal and eternal well-being. Christians can abide in the things that they learn for they are Sacred Writings making them wise unto salvation which is in Jesus Christ (2 Tim 3:14-17). The Scriptures, once and for all given to the saints, needs no "progressive rewrite or renditions". There is no need for "revisionism" and "rewriting the history of the church". The light of righteousness is singularly God's words which illuminate and to rescind it by revisionism is to call God into question. Such is blasphemy.

Despite philosophical research throughout the centuries no new truth within the province and boundaries of the Scriptures has appeared. The Bible contains the ultimate and total of what is required for mankind to serve and honor God. What is required of man is to know that God is limitless and wise. He alone knows what is best for His creation. The sun of our universe does not need to change to meet the demands of a progressive world. The Bible, in like manner, though closed and finally sealed does not alter because man takes the broad way rather than the narrow (Mat 7:13, 14). The Bible never needs an addendum [appendix]. The Word stands unqualifiedly and invincibly the "last word on the matter". Christianity should unhesitatingly affirm the Originator did not intend for the Bible to be a progressive revelation, augmented because of time and circumstances.

The business of some has been to purge all unwarranted, "politically incorrect" statements which claim that the Bible is verbally and plenary inerrant. Some treat the Bible as "mere literature" and boast that it needs a "new edition". Some say it needs to be "brought up to date". Why then is the oldest text of the Bible in such demand. Is it not true that in all practicality the older the text the more free from human tampering it would be. We have many second century writers, later codices [codex], fragments and quotations that if the Bibles were all burned they could be replicated from these sources word for word. The Bible, written so many centuries ago, was intended to survive the ravages of time and men. It is an unalterable

book and in full measure meant to give mankind moral and spiritual guidance. The Bible would not be a complete book if it did not supply all moral and spiritual needs in all conditions of mankind.

The so-called “parable” of the Rich Man [Dives] and Lazarus give an insight about a rich man who had five brothers (Lk 16:19-31). It could be suggested that they all might have been honest, paid their debts, and minded their own affairs. As to spiritual things they were “non-committal” and did not trouble themselves about things of God. The worse that could be said of them might be that they lived a “self-centered” life.

It came to pass the Rich Man and Lazarus died. Their destiny was sealed which was torment for one and Abraham’s bosom for the other. Privileges and lost opportunities now became the issue and a gulf fixed between Paradise and Torment was set. The hour of mercy faded and justice dispensed. The distance between the rich and Lazarus was not measured by space but by hope and hopelessness. The rich man called to Abraham asking for Lazarus to wet his finger tip and touch his parched tongue but now the law of sowing and reaping affected the rich man (Gal 6:1-10). In this insufferable place the rich man did not change his character to a “psalm singer”, “penitent”, “searcher of righteousness” but even in torment he was self-pleasing. He was unhappy but did not long for the fellowship of the saints. His character was now crystallized in death. Now came to pass the words, “...he that is unjust let him be unjust still and he that is holy let him be holy still”. Nothing can change after death.

The rich man remembered his brothers. He demanded that Lazarus be sent to his father’s house. We see the brothers have not taken any initiative to search for eternal things. Their pleasures preempted godliness. The rich man intimated that they were not getting a fair chance. If they were amply informed of eternal things they would surely change their manner of living. But would they? Abraham set forth the sufficiency of the scriptures, “They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them”. Included in this was the designation of the “Scriptures”. The intimation was that these brothers had the Bible with all that was necessary to guide them unto righteousness. The rich man’s retort was “nay,” it would require one being raised from the dead. When Christ walked the earth He raised the dead. Many saw and did not believe. Therefore, Abraham said “If they hear not Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rose from the dead”.

The New Testament contains the divine will of God. The gospel is available. “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse...” (Rom 1:18-20). It pleased God to reveal His infinite love and mercy through the Scriptures. All that is needed to be known is known. The Bible is complete.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

"For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26). "...and fear not them which kill the body, but

are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both the soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). In these passages Jesus is saying that the soul is worth more than anything, yes, everything in the world.

What is a soul? Man is a threefold being which is made up of the inner and outer man. "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole SPIRIT and SOUL and BODY be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (emp. DW I Thes. 5:23). "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day" (2 Cor. 4:16). We have a physical body of flesh, a soul or principle of the physical life of the body, and a spirit or non-material part of man that is made in the image of God. The inner man is composed of soul and spirit. These words are at times used interchangeably referring both to the part that makes man a living being and to the seat of feelings, thoughts, desires and affections.

What makes the soul such a priceless thing? The soul or spirit is divine in origin (Zech. 12:1). God is the Father of our spirit (Heb.12:9). At death the soul or spirit returns to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7). The soul was redeemed by the blood of Christ. "For as much as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, but with the precious blood of Christ... (I Pet. 1:18-19). What a price! It is the soul or spirit that is converted and not the body (I Pet. 1:22).

The soul is eternal in duration. Though dead for centuries, Moses appeared very much alive with Christ on the mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1-9). Though they had died, the rich man and Lazarus were alive in the other world (Lk. 16:19-31). The soul of man defies comparison and surpasses all values. The loss of the soul means we will experience two losses. One is the loss of the blessedness of this life (I Tim. 4:8; John 10:10) and the other is the loss of heaven with all of its incomparable joy and beauty. The loss of the soul is an unqualified one. Its loss cannot be compensated or amended and is irreparable and beyond recall. **WHAT IS THE VALUE OF YOUR SOUL?** Where will our spirit (individually) spend eternity? No one else can do it for us. We must be accountable for own destiny!

Keep all of our sick and shut-ins in your prayers! Have a great week serving God! Hope to see each of you at the place of assembly each time the saints gather.

~Dean Webb

"Yet say ye, Wherefore doth not the son bear the iniquity of the father? When the son hath done that which is lawful and right, and hath kept all my statutes, and hath done them, he shall surely live. The soul that sinneth, it shall die: the son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (Ezek 18:19, 20).

Walk Before God in Righteousness

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, Jehovah appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be the father of a multitude of nations. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for the father of a multitude of nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee and to thy seed after thee” (Gen 17:1-7).

Abraham “walked before God” demonstrating that he believed God and it was reckoned unto him for righteousness (Rom 4:1-5). God rewarded Abraham and he lived within the covenant God made. God gave a “seal” of the covenant as “circumcision”. Abraham walked by righteous faith and it pleased God. The law was later added because of transgression and did not disannul the promise (Gal 3:15-22). Abraham believed God could give life to the dead and call things which were not as though they were. What Abraham could not see with his physical eye, the eye of faith saw and believed. When God promised Abraham a son he was about one hundred years old and Sarah was ninety years old. Abraham did not stagger or waiver in unbelief but waxed strong in faith, giving glory to God by being fully assured that He was able to keep His promises. The things which were written about Abraham were not for his sake alone; but that Christians might be assured that God keeps all His promises. God made a great nation of Abraham.

Abraham walked before God in the land of Canaan for many years and obeyed God’s commands. He experienced many unique and wonderful blessings from God. Even after being shamefully mistreated by Pharaoh, Abraham left Egypt with great wealth (Gen 12; 13). God promised to bless those who blessed Abraham and curse those who curse him. The history of Abraham is filled with God’s blessings. Abraham’s war with the five kings and his victory is a display of God blessing him (Gen 14). Upon his return from this war he encountered Melchizedek a priest of the Most High God (Jehovah) and was blessed. In the life of Abraham he manifested his faithfulness repeatedly and walked before God. God insisted that Abraham walk before Him and be perfect (Gen 17:1). In spite of the years which passed before Isaac was born Abraham persisted in faithfulness. Abraham had no other gods before him. He served God and let nothing come between him and Jehovah.

The implications are obvious, God expects Christians to live in such a way as to always walk before Him in faithful obedience (Gal 3:23-29). The life and behavior of a Christian is manifested by walking in the light (1 Jn 1:5-10). Christians should never let anything inhibit their relationship with God, nor diminish from their righteousness. Repeatedly the Bible informs the Christians of the value of faithfulness. Paul said, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is revealed a righteousness of God from faith unto faith: as it is written, But the righteous shall live by faith” (Rom 1:16, 17). Walking before God in righteousness is the blessed life. ~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, March 7, 2010

Front foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price; Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

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 **March 9th** at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Joann Hatch about Humility/Hospitality.

39'er BREAKFAST

Don't forget about the breakfast given by our Teens this Saturday in the Annex at 8:00 a.m.

PEN PALS

Anyone interested in being a pen pal to one of our missionaries, please see Richard Renfro.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all of you for the prayers, visits & cards during my illness. Your thoughtfulness means a lot to me. May God bless each and every one of you. Love, Charlene (Carroll) & Gaylen.

LECTURESHIP BOOKS

Three books from the Shenandoah Lectureship in San Antonio remain available for \$9.00.

THOSE TO SERVE IN MARCH

Lord's table (front): Purman Cofer, Scott Price, Bill Matthews, John Mayer, Jerry Baker, Henry Seidmeyer, Brandon Howard, Mike Garrison **(back):** JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Keith Vaughn, Derrol Allen, Bill Paschall, Max Melton, Roy Martin

p.m. Thomas Rathbun, Robert Ruckman

Card Pickup: a.m. Ethan Howard, Curtis Vaughan **p.m.** Alex & Kenny Mayer

Contribution Counters: John Mayer, Rob Farmer

Communion Preparers: JC & Dessie Ross

WITH SYMPATHY

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Ann Ryon** who passed away early last Friday morning. Services will be tomorrow (3/2) here at the building at 11:00; interment will be in Whitewright at 3:00 p.m.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Ilene Ashworth** had a successful procedure done last Thursday.
- **Erma Lee Baker** is in Baylor/Irving, room #425
- **Billie Beverly's** surgery has been rescheduled for tomorrow, March 2nd.
- **Mary Curtis** is now home doing better after a hospital stay.
- **Linda Head** is also home now doing better after a hospital stay.
- **Becky Henry** spent time in the ER with back pain; she is now home resting.
- **Hank Henry** is suffering with weakness.
- **Lyda McAlister** could possibly go home today (3/1).
- **Nancy Pond** got a good report after her procedure.
- **Billie Prince** is ill at home.
- **Tom Prince** will undergo surgery today (3/1).
- **Johnnie Williams** will undergo another surgery today (3/1).

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Grady Fowler, Mike Garrison, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- March 6: 39'r breakfast in Annex at 8:00 a.m.
- March 7: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- March 7: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- March 9: Ladies' Bible class at 11:00 a.m. & luncheon
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Scott Price
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Jerry Baker
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Brandon Howard
- Mike Garrison

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Stan Selby
- Garl Latham

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
- Romans 4:13-24

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Glen Kelly
- Denizil Myers

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Kenny Mayer
- Luke 12:13-21

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Garl Latham

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

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	84	85	125
A.M. Worship	135	162	147	210
P.M. Worship	75	72	77	112
Wed. Class	77	73	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	18	20	21	35
Contribution	\$4811	\$6036	\$5559	\$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 – Stephenille, TX

Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India

Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching

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