

**December 8, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**December 14, 2008**

a.m. *"The Will to Know"*

Scripture: John 7:14-24

p.m. *"Walking with God"*

Scripture: Genesis 5:21-24

**Truth**

Don Hatch

No term is more familiar to society than "truth". It is the predication of all laws. Law must have truth in the balance of its judgment. The basic confidence is that there are adequate, accurate, guileless, trustworthy and unprejudiced ideals wherein is found unequivocal clarity and moral-certainty to establish something called true. The intention is that there is a concrete type of characteristic order which produces a standard beyond equivocation [honor, sincerity, probity, unreserved openness and free from prejudice]. Moral truth corresponds to a meaning of correctness which has been tested and expresses solid typicals which can be trusted in all circumstances because they come from a source of absolute truth. The aim is to demonstrate that man must be in compliance to standards of truth. All truth ultimately is dependent on a source which can be verified. In the Bible the known will of God is final for man's standard of truth, not arbitrary, but expressed in the nature of God. God's nature is all inclusive as a source and standard of achieving the ideal of truth. The word of God, thus revealed, persuades by demonstrating historically how truth is compelling and a lie is a curse. Truth may not be flattering to the hypocrite (Mat 23). To be sure, it is understood, that to employ truth is serious and cannot be counterfeited in a lie.

The foundation of all truth is holding conformity to standards acknowledged to be consistently right. Applying standards of truth is to have a necessary knowledge of the difference between right and wrong (Heb 5:11-14). There must be patterns which can be adhered to as a body of principles wherein those who search find reasonable truth.

There is a growing consensus that objective truth, universal truth, is no longer relevant and has become archaic. This trend is growing with a shift to embrace radical and different ways of seeking truth beyond foundational precepts and principles which arise from true religion. Categorically many no longer assume that there is knowledge which presents an objective truth that has been revealed to mankind. Thus, the center of truth is no longer God; rather it is centered on mankind. Hence, there is a dismissal of God and need for His form of truth. It is believed that God's revelation is insufficient for a modern reality. In light of this assumption modernists are uninfluenced by God or religious principles. They have constructed a scenario

which makes technology “god”. Since technology is the result of human knowledge it is considered the final source of truth. This has produced an illusion that man will ultimately be free of social bondage to practice whatsoever is desired or designed. Fundamentally this view has a broken underpinning, resulting in increasing apprehension as to whether the solution for current ills will ever be found at all. The unsavory implication is that Christianity is no longer able to assert a legitimate and exclusive claim on salvation.

In spite of such modern foolishness there is still truth from God which is relative and sound. The scriptures are tormented, tested and tried but remain the element where mankind will find the quality of life which brings them freedom from all social ills. The ground of confidence must be the Bible. It has withstood all tests and gives an explicit pledge of being the truth (Jn 8:32; 17:17; Eph 1:3-14). Jesus Christ proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that He is the way, the truth and the life (Jn 14:1-5). Jesus lived, performed miracles, preached truth, died on a Roman cross outside the walls of Jerusalem, was buried in a borrowed tomb, arose on the third day, seen by witnesses, ascended into heaven and sits at the right-hand of God the Father (1 Cor 15:1-58). The evidence is overwhelming. This truth underpins all other truth revealed by God. The resurrection proved Jesus was the Son of God (Rom 1:1-5). God proved Jesus was His Son by signs, wonders and manifold gifts of the Holy Spirit (Heb 2:1-5; Acts 2:22). Christianity is not at a disadvantage. Historical proof is on our side.

Man is obligated to God to respond to truth and all its demands. Truthfulness battles against lies. Lies are intentional violations of truth which degenerate man and offer nothing good in return. The scriptures condemn a lie and God cannot lie (Heb 6:8). There is now a radical hermeneutic which no longer seeks to uphold the truth but is deconstructive wherein they make up their own “truth” alleging that human reasoning can fully understand the Bible. Such is a lie. God gave us the Bible in a detailed manner that we might know the truth to set us free from sin and damnation. The Bible is not one of many alternatives to truths. It is claimed to be the only truth about God, man, sin and salvation. Salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 4:12).

The Bible states that Jesus Christ came to assure all of God’s truth. Jesus was the embodiment of truth (Jn 1:17). The Bible does not present Jesus as one of many forms of salvation. Rather, He is the only legitimate one to offer salvation based upon the truth of the gospel (Eph 1:13). As unpopular as this may be with the modernist the Bible still claims and remains the truth. The Bible has never been destroyed by the attacks of men. It is a standard to which all can appeal and nothing of man’s creation has equaled it. Let God be found true, that His words might prevail when He comes into judgment (Rom 3:4).

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message from Our Shepherds**

We extend our thanks to Brother Hatch for his sermon Sunday Morning (Luke 13:22-30). God's understanding is infinite (Ps. 147:5). It is impossible to hide from God's presence, and it is impossible to keep any secret from God (Eccl. 12:14).

The Bible says that God knows: 1) the number of stars in the heavens and can call them all by their names (Ps.147:4), 2) the birds of the mountains and beasts of the field (Ps. 50:11), 3) when a bird falls to the ground (Matt. 6:26; 10:29), 4) the number of hairs on each ones head

(Matt. 10:30), 5) all men and their deeds, even the secret things (Heb. 4:12); Eccl. 12:13-14), 6) the hearts of men (Ezek. 11:5; Jer. 17:10), 7) the future of men and events (Acts 2:23; 1 Pet. 1:19-20; Eph. 3:10-11).

This list does not begin to cover everything the Bible says about God's infinite knowledge, but the above should be sufficient for us to understand and come to the conclusion of what it means to us.

What it says and means to us is that God knows all about our sins, even the secret thoughts of our minds which no one else knows. It should alert us that we must strive to be pure and righteous. It also tells us that God will not make mistakes in His judgments of us, and neither will we be overlooked or forgotten. It is fearful that God knows us so completely (Heb. 10:31). It should be comforting to us knowing that God knows our sins, and He also knows our hearts, and whether we are striving to serve Him.

"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us". (1 Jn 1:7-10). "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose". (Rom. 8:28).

Let's keep praying for our sick, shut-ins and those not regularly attending because of indifference. Have a great week serving God and doing his will!

~ Dean Webb

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **Committed**

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass." (Ps 37:5)

Frustration comes as we battle with evil forces. The pain and pressure is real and it will take its toll. The Lord will destroy the plans of the wicked, but while those plans are active they cause concern (Ps 33:10). We must maintain trust in the Lord and commit our lives to Him if we are to be victorious.

There is a link between the Savior's mind, heart and the routine of a Christian who has given his life over to God. Be confident that God has begun a good work and will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ (Phil 1:6). Working out our own salvation with fear and trembling builds integrity. God works in us His will and we must be focused on the work of the Kingdom. "Brethren, I count not myself yet to have laid hold: but one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13, 14).

God's promise of aiding us is conditioned on our being committed, faithfully obedient and following His sovereign will.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the December 11, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News



*Jesus, Friend of Sinners*

*Jesus, friend of sinners, be a friend to me;  
I am weak and weary; let me lean on Thee.*

*Jesus, perfect teacher, help me learn Thy ways,  
Guide my feeble footsteps to Thy holy praise.*

*Jesus, loving shepherd, guard my wand'ring soul,  
May I follow meekly under Thy control.*

*Jesus, foe of evil, help me win the fight;  
May Thy weapons conquer all that hates the right.*

*Jesus, Lord of Glory, hear this earnest plea:  
After life's brief story, take me home to Thee.*

*~ Norman Gipson*

**GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

**Sunday, December 14, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Henry & Frances Seidmeyer; Jamie & Megan Little

**Back foyer:** Bill & Linda Matthews

**Sunday, December 21, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

**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** 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.

### LADIES

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **December 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30** a.m. in the Annex.

### WEDDING BELLS

**Melody Williams** (frequent visitor) will marry Marc Hubbell this Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at the Central Church of Christ in West Plains, MO.

### IN APPRECIATION

To My Beltline Family: I personally appreciate all of the calls, prayers and visits made by my caring brothers and sisters at Beltline, regarding the successful heart surgery of my son-in-law, Wayne Ruyle, and also LeAnne Calvano, my daughter's successful gallbladder surgery. The Beltline family is indeed a loving and caring group and has seen me and my family through a lot of difficult times, but above all our Heavenly Father has been the Great Overseer and touched our lives and healed our infirmities with His Great Mercy. We are humbled. In His Love, Ilene Ashworth and family.

### GRADUATIONS

Jessica Alonzo, Samantha Harvey, & Kenica Thomason will all be graduating from either college or trade school on **December 13<sup>th</sup>**. We're so proud of you; good luck in your new ventures!

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Barbara Coop** (former member) passed away on Wednesday. A memorial took place this morning (12/8) at the Kaufman Church of Christ.

**Hollis Jones** (Dana Hodgkins & Jerry Grantham's uncle) passed away Thursday evening; services will be held in Kansas today (12/8).

### PRAYER CONCERNS

- Melissa Beverly** has been down with pneumonia.
- Bob Bingham** has been given 3 options of treatment to think about.
- The Heads:** Harold, Dona, & Anna have all been sick with upper respiratory & pneumonia problems.
- Joy Webb** had knee surgery last Thursday & is doing very well.
- Johnny Bowman** (Nancy Pond's brother) has a staph infection.

- Judy Bowman** (Nancy Pond's sister-in-law) has a large abdominal hernia & is working with her insurance company to get surgery approved; she's been denied twice so far.
- LeAnne Calvano** (Ilene Ashworth's daughter) underwent successful gall bladder surgery last week.
- Glen Elmore** (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham) fell & broke his hip & also underwent surgery last week,
- Jason McCullough** (friend of the Garrison's) passed away from a brain tumor.
- Don Morgan** (Gwen Bingham's son) is better from the pneumonia, but still suffers with TIA's.
- George Ryon** (Ann's son) is now in room #405.
- Linda Woodruff** (the Webb's neighbor) is suffering with congestive heart failure & will either have quadruple bypass surgery or will need a transplant.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, 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), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- Dec 14: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Dec 16: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex

**NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

**Sunday morning:**

- Shellie Pearce

**Sunday evening:**

- Betty Ruckman

**DEC. LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

**Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Grady Fowler
- Brandon Howard

**Rear Table**

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

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Dean Webb
- John Mayer
- Brandon Thomason

**SCRIPTURE READING**

- Ty Harvey  
John 7:14-24

### **SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison

### **LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Brandon Thomason
- John Mayer

### **COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Mike Batot

### **FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET**

	<b><u>Last Week</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Avg.</u></b>	<b><u>Goal</u></b>
Sun. Class	89	96	94	125
A.M. Worship	147	190	165	210
P.M. Worship	90	75	94	112
Wed. Class	55	80	94	110
Ladies Bible Class	0	15	20	35
Contribution	\$5468	\$5996	\$5395	\$5400

### ***MISSIONS***

21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions  
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India  
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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching  
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India