

**June 17, 2009**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**June 21, 2009**

a.m. "*Open Window*"

Scripture: Daniel 6:10-15

p.m. "*Believe Without Seeing*"

Scripture: John 20:26-29

**Reconciliation (Blessed and Privileged)**

Don Hatch

When sin controls the life of an individual they are said to be "falling short of the glory of God". Hence they are in a spiritual location that is separated from God and His saving grace (Eph 2:11-22). Reconciliation means to "change places". The individual changes from enmity to a family member with God (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). The relationship between God and man that is needed to be reestablished has been accomplished. God exercised His grace toward sinful mankind because of Jesus Christ's death. This death was a propitiatory sacrifice to remove the judgment due to sin (2 Cor 5:19, 20; Col 1:21). By reason of Jesus' death sinful mankind in their sinful condition and alienation from God are invited to trust, obey and be reconciled with Him. When there is a change in attitude, will and acceptance of the provision, God has promised to reconcile them. God's plan for reconciliation is to remit the sins of the sinner (Acts 2:38).

Mankind remains an enemy of God until reconciled (Rom 5:1-10). This hostile attitude significantly negates any relationship man can hope to have with God. The death of God's Son exposed the dreadful circumstance that mankind had fallen into. Mankind was under condemnation because of sin. Jesus interposed Himself between mankind and God as a means of removal of sin. His death brought about reconciliation to God if mankind would respond in loving obedience to the will of God. The removal of God's wrath does not change or alter His immutability. He always acts according to His unchanging righteousness and lovingkindness. It is because of this His attitude never changes toward sin and the need for redemption. His acts are manifest to the believer in personal elements of love and as a Father. God's anger at sin is still active and must be reckoned with on the part of an alien sinner. When man is willing to have personal grief for sins committed and correspondingly follow all of the steps of the first principles which lead one from hearing the word of God to believing, repenting, confessing Christ as the Son of God and being baptized for the remission of sins in the name of Jesus (Rom 10:1-14; Heb 6:1-5; Acts 2:38; 8:37). Relative to God's attitude toward the reconciliation He calls them redeemed. God treats the reconciled graciously and lovingly (1 Jn 3:1-5). It is man who needs to be reconciled with God and not God with man. God's righteousness, mercy and grace have been plenteously manifested over the millenniums. God has always sought mankind to renew their faithful relationship with Him and

abstain the very form of evil (1 Thes 5:22). When the New Testament writers speak of "hostility" it is not on the part of God but man. God does not have to make concessions. It is man that must seek reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18-20). God reconciles the believers to Himself because of Jesus Christ. Him who knew no sin God made to become sin on our behalf; that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. Hence, on this ground mankind is commanded "to be reconciled to God". The changing of conditions, removal of enmity and obedience leaves no impediment to unity with the Godhead (Eph 2:16). Race, creed, color, nationality and all such are dissolved and all become one new man in Christ (Gal 3:27-29). The creeds of men are cast off, the new national home is heaven, Christians are not known as Jewish-Christians, Gentile-Christians, male or female, they are all one in Christ.

Christ is called the "high priest in all things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" (Heb 2:17). Here we see the propitiation of Christ made on mankind's behalf to reconcile them to the Father (Rom 3:21-30). Reconciliation was not necessary from God's side. His love wanted mankind to be reconciled but God never gave in order to be loved. He gave because He first loved man. Mankind should love God and appreciate the gift of salvation. The cross was not the cause of God's love, but the effect. God is not reconciled to the sinner; He has ever loved them and has never been estranged from them. He was never alienated from His sinful creatures, but they were aliens while lingering in sin, remaining strangers to the covenants of God (Rom 5:1-10; Col 1:18-23). Mankind is the offender, estranging himself from God and has been at enmity with God because of personal sins. Man as an enemy of God needed one who was sinless, righteous and willing to die on their behalf that reconciliation might take place. Christ was willing to become incarnate, live as man, be tempted in all points as a man, yet without sin (Phil 2:1-11; Heb 4:14-16). Christ abides as our high priest and is able to save us to the uttermost if we will draw near to God (Heb 7:11-15).

There is only one soul-satisfying message at the heart of the truth of reconciliation. It must be a thorough change. The conciliation for us was when Jesus was willing to take our place. When we are in sin Jesus can remove sin by His blood. In sinfulness we are in a state of condemnation and at odds with God. But in and through the death of Jesus Christ a work of reconciliation removed condemnation and exchanged it for righteousness (Rom 8:1, 2; 2 Cor 5:20). Reconciliation is restoring divine favor. The guilt and penalty is removed. As the reconciled we are placed in a state where we can partake of His promises and spiritual rewards (Eph 1:3-15). Reconciliation of man to God is a blessed privilege and becomes a reality when one repents from sin and exercises faithfulness in all things.

## **Psalm 51**

### **A Song of Sorrow, Victory and Redemption**

Pulling aside the curtain and inviting others to look at a private and personal life is a spectacle that reveals the agony and deep contrition of a soul. Psalm 51 finds a man on the verge of attempting to apologize as he sees his soul's desperation. He first repents before God and knows the harm that his actions have caused deep distress in all quarters of the nation. He seeks to resolve the error by being contrite before all. For nearly 3000 years individuals have read this Psalm and are moved by the tragic picture they gaze upon.

The lure of sin and its staggering hold upon a heart dedicated to God is sorrowful. The hero struggles, fights, wrestles and writhes in his soul seeking a sublime victory. He is helpless

without divine intervention for there is no human solution until there is a spiritual one. There is a broken and contrite heart which cries out to be reconciled to God and be redeemed from the grip sin has on his heart, soul and mind. The thought of eternal banishment from the presence of God is too much for this tender soul. His guilt, if it remains, will forever put him beyond the remedy provided by the law of God. His banishment wells upon to its full significance where he knows that even a king is amenable to God's eternal law. He now sees himself as helpless, naked and defenseless incapable of escaping God's judgment. Even with the multitude of goats, sheep or bulls he could offer, if there is no repentance, he would remain lost and undone. This lone man struggles and bewails his condition. Few individuals have the courage to write of their sins and the seeking of remission. Doggedly in a supreme way the steps are taken and joy bells ring as restoration is found in a broken spirit and contrite heart.

In the midst of victory and luxury David saw and wanted the beautiful wife of Uriah. Any other king would have done this without a whisper of blame. David was different. His kingship was dedicated to God and the future generations waiting for the Messiah knew that David was to be in His lineage. David as God's anointed must not sin. Before this Psalm is finished the ugly nature of sin is renounced and replaced with the brightness of confession that the sin was against God and man. No effort of self-improvement would help. David did not call a priest or present a burnt offering. He offered himself. The tempter had won a battle but God would win the victory in the life of David.

Man's greatest need is forgiveness and victory over sin. David is a brilliant example of how one can change and return to God. There is no more practical Psalm for seeing contrition and remorsefulness. What a glorious Psalm for it permits all to see the power and grip of sin with a godly solution being offered. May God's word speak powerfully to the needs of our lives.  
~ Don Hatch

### **How The Wisdom Of God Is Manifested- Don Hatch**

*"And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had judged; and they feared the king: for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment"* (1 Kg 3:28). God's wisdom is displayed in the scriptures (1 Cor 1:18-20). The capacity of man to grasp and use this wisdom is known because God made man with a unique mind, heart and will (Matt 22:38). Man can grasp that which is abstract. God's wisdom manifested itself over millenniums through the prophets (Heb 1:1-5). In these last days Jesus Christ is the prophet to which we must listen (Heb 1:1-5; Acts 3:22-25).

Inspiration means God breathed in a verbal and plenary manner. Wisdom of God is applied to all scripture (2 Tim 3:16, 17; 2 Pet 3:14-18). Ezra taught in such a manner that the Persian King recognized that it was the law of God (Ezra 7:25). The wisdom of God is always consistent. There is a wisdom of this world that is carnal (Jas 3:13-18). Worldly wisdom is full of jealousy, strife, factions, and vile deeds are obviously not from above. Using God's wisdom brings forth a good life with works of meekness. It also has purity, peacefulness, gentleness and is easy to be entreated. The fruit that it produces is righteousness which is sown in peace by these who make peace. God has made foolish the wisdom of the world. Through the foolishness of preaching, the wisdom of God manifested a plan unto salvation (1 Cor 1:18-20). God's Word is the power unto salvation and everyone who is called, Jew or Gentile, finds within the words of God the scheme of redemption (Eph 1:3-15). God reveals this scheme

through The Word. Paul explains that it is not the wisdom of men or excellence of speech which converts the lost. It is the gospel of Christ (1 Cor 2:1-5). Salvation has to stand on the wisdom of God, not man's wisdom.

Christ applied the "wisdom of God" to the things which the prophets taught (Lk 11:49; 2 Chron 36:15, 16). Jesus identifies that the prophets wrote scripture. The prophets wrote concerning Christ and whatsoever was written aforetime was written for our learning, that through the scriptures we might find comfort (Rom 15:1-9). Moreover the scriptures were examples, to the intent that we might not lust after evil things as they did, commit fornication, practice idolatry or murmur wherein they died by the destroyer (1 Cor 10:1-13). Human wisdom never discovers, by itself, God's wisdom. God's wisdom comes by the revealed word in the Bible. The mystery of God is revealed in the scriptures (1 Cor 1:21-24; 2:7). The mystery that is revealed is Christ, salvation and the church (Eph 3:1-13). This wisdom is manifested through inspired writers to the intent that man might know the spiritual ways of God. "In the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God... We preach Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God...which God ordained before the world unto our glory" (1 Cor 2:21-24; 2:7).

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, June 21, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

**Back foyer:** Carol Swinney

### **Sunday, June 28, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

**Back foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

## **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 at 5:15 p.m. in room #116.

### **MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL**

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

### **SUMMERTIME PREACHING**

Next Wednesday's lesson is entitled "**Tares**" from Matthew 13:24-30 by Brother Robert Stapleton.

### **SUMMER YOUTH SERIES**

The **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** session will be at the Lake Dallas congregation. Let the McKey's know if you'd like to attend.

### **39'ers**

The 39'ers monthly get-together has been postponed for the summer months & will resume the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday in September.

### **NURSERY DUTY**

The elders have made a decision to discontinue nursery duty until a time comes in attendance when it will be needed. Thank you to these ladies who have diligently served in this capacity: Melissa Allen, Debra Alonzo, Mary Bowen, Sandy Hall, Samantha Harvey, Jamie Little, Shellie Pearce, Julie Roses, & Betty Ruckman. Your dedication has not gone unnoticed!

### **FAREWELL**

We are sad to announce that the **Harold Head family** will be leaving us after VBS this week. Harold & Dona have been a true asset to our church family with attendance & in teaching our little ones. Anna Lee has grown to be a beautiful big girl & we will miss them all. We wish you God's speed; come back to see us!

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

•**Gwen Bingham** remains in Las Colinas Medical, room #212 following 2 surgeries on a head wound to clear infection; she had also broken a foot. Hip replacement surgery could be scheduled for as early as this week.

•**Charlene Carroll** fell & broke her wrist & injured her knee while on a trip.

•**Jean Kelly** is in Baylor/Irving, room #405 after a fall & breaking her leg.

•**Elsie Nanney** remains in Baylor/Irving, room #551 for rehab; she is scheduled to be moved to an occupational therapy facility this Wednesday.

•**Tom Head** (Linda Head's husband) will have a procedure this Friday for clogged arteries in his legs.

•**John Veyon** (Ilene Ashworth's brother) is scheduled for open heart surgery tomorrow in Pittsburg, PA.

### **Continuing Prayer Concerns:**

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Louise Gierling (former member Tom Gierling's mother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

### *The Lord Had Already Called*

*A call came on Sunday morning, "Tell mother not to go to church services this morning; we are coming." But the mother went right on to Bible study and worship anyway. The daughter was furious when she arrived and no one was home to meet her. She said, "I called you and told you that I was coming and you went on to worship anyway." The mother replied, "I'm sorry, dear, but the Lord had already called."*

*~ Anonymous*

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- June 21: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- June 21: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- June 23: No Summer Youth Series
- June 24: Summertime Preaching
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

### **LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

#### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Grady Fowler
- Stan Selby

#### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

### **SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Jerry McKey
- Garl Latham
- Jeremy Hardegree

### **A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jerry Baker  
Daniel 6:10-15

### **A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Darrell Allen

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

- John Mayer
- James Gilliam

### **P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

· Dean Webb  
John 20:26-29

### **P.M. SONG LEADER**

· Ty Harvey (last song: Jerry McKey)

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

· Robert Ruckman  
· Bill Paschall

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

· Ty Harvey

### **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	96	93	125
A.M. Worship	165	153	156	210
P.M. Worship	94	89	87	112
Wed. Class	86	30	79	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5052	\$5266	\$5390	\$5474

### ***MISSIONS***

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India  
Willie 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 – Bear Valley School of Preaching  
Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India