

April 12, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

April 18, 2010

a.m. *"The Inclusive Gift"*

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

p.m. *"Ingratitude"*

Scripture: Luke 17:11-19

The Bible Is Christ's Book

Don Hatch

Any controversy over the Bible centers on Christ's respect for The Word of God. If the words are changed in any manner it will also change Christ, His regard for The Word and how He lived by it (Gal 4:5). If The Words means nothing and can be changed why did Jesus manifest His absolute submission to every "jot or title" of the law (Mat 5:18). The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was the "only begotten Son of God" or was He a pretender? To destroy the Bible destroys the fabric of Christianity and Christ. Are there clear characteristics of the Bible which lift it out of the categories of other books? Is it God-breathed, verbally inspired? Can it be received with confidence as an infallible rule of faith and practice or is it a regrettably "excessive attachment to a false guide for worship?" Is it truth or only contains truth, more or less? Christians and Christianity are regarded as two great columns like Jachin and Boaz (the brass columns in the temple), which when seen are a constant reminder that God designed the temple and church.

God revealed what He wanted man to do by His word. He is seen in nature but not clearly. Language was the medium which God chose to use to acquaint man with His will. They discover what kind of God He is by what He says. The Incarnate, Jesus Christ was with God in the beginning and will be with Him in the conclusion of the world (Jn 1:1-17). We are not surprised to hear Jesus Christ, the Word, claim a complete revelation of the Father. Philip said, "...show us the Father, and it sufficeth us". Jesus answered, "...if you have seen me you have seen the Father" (Jn 14:8). Jesus' words were to transverse the world. He was "God with us" (Mat 1:18-20). The pages of Scripture contain the words which are for the healing of nations. They manifest salvation and grace. If Christ is to reign universally it is because of the Bible and the preaching of the gospel (1 Cor 1:18-20). The Bible is the complement and counterpart of the preached word. The preached word must be scripture or he who corrupts it is accursed by God (Gal 1:6-10). The Word is complete (Jude 3; 1 Cor 13:8-10). Christ and the Scriptures must be cordially ascended to by having unswerving loyalty which binds all to the facts that Christ and the Scriptures are above suspicion. A Bibleless and Christless world is damned and doomed. The ultimate test of devotion is faith in the sum total of His teachings and the Scriptures inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim 3:14-17; 2 Pet 1:2-22). The Bible is more than a mere biography of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is the exclusive

outline of God's scheme of redemption for fallen mankind. It is the only complete view of what God has worked out in history that He might save mankind from their sins. Whatsoever the Bible contains on history, science, theology, ethics, man and God is true. It is correct to say that there is a "golden thread" running through the Scriptures about Christ, His church and the hope of glory. This is verified by the Law, Psalms and Prophets (Lk 24:44-48; Rom 3:1-31). The Moral law, Moses' law and the Spirit's law all combine to teach us of Christ.

Christ's attitude toward the Bible is of great importance. To begin with He was familiar with every phrase, sentence, paragraph, chapter and book. It was His infallible rule of life and godliness. In His temptations He answered with Scripture. Moreover, Christ specifically declared the Scriptures to be true. He did not say they "contained truth", but were The Word of God. He prayed that God the Father would sanctify the disciples through The Word which was truth (Jn 17:17). A follower of Jesus should stand on Christ's endorsement. Jesus affixed His seal of approval to the Old Testament and assured the Apostles that they would be guided into all truth (Jn 14:26, 16:13). Christ endorsed the Pentateuch, Prophets and Psalms and gave credit to those whom God had called upon to write them by inspiration. Christ made the Bible an effective shield against the approaches of the tempter. Christ sanctioned the Bible as a **scientifically** worthy rendition of the creation of the world. Theories of science have passed through countless revisions. The Bible needs no revisions. It is always faithful. We are not called upon to renew or qualify our faith. As **history**, our Lord put His distinctive approval upon it and archeology has borne out that Bible stories are not fables or legends. In no case did Christ call the historical annals into question, but positively and tacitly placed His agreement upon them. Prophecies were constantly shown to be faithful and true. Jesus manifested that the prophets foretold of Him and He fulfilled all prophecies concerning the Messiah. Jesus demonstrated that God had predicted through various and sundry ways who, what, when, where, why and how Christ fulfilled the scheme of redemption. The Bible has been bitterly assailed and assailants have been profoundly proven wrong. Christ said there were people called Adam, Eve, Abel, Cain, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Lot, Jacob, Moses, Joshua, David, Solomon, Queen of Sheba and many more historical figures, including Jonah who was swallowed by a "big fish". He reduced all clamor of the infidels to an ignoble anticlimax as if they placed the Bible in the realm of Aladdin and his lamp. Jesus subjected Himself, placing His divine prerogatives in abeyance, but never for a moment quibbled about the fact He was "God with us" (Phil 2:1-11). He trusted, used Scriptures and they spoke of Him. The Bible was Christ's book. It is the Christians only book for practices of faithfulness.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

This week I was reminded of the Lord not letting Paul and Silas go to Asia (Acts 16:6-7). One of our Mission Printing Trustees gave me a free ticket to Nigeria, Africa. I ordered the ticket Tuesday and a few hours later, I was called and told that the trip was canceled because of civil unrest inside Nigeria. My original destination airport, Enugu was closed due to runway repair and I was diverted to land in Owerri. That town is in a very dangerous part of the country and no personal safety could be provided. Also the State Department sent me a warning to avoid travel to Nigeria at this time, because neither the police nor the military could be trusted. I was traveling to a preaching school in Abakaliki to set up a storage area for our ocean container, but evidently I will have to postpone my onsite visit. But that does not mean that Mission Printing (MP) will not be sending almost a 1,000,000 tracts to Nigeria real soon. MP is still on

schedule to send the shipment via ocean container, as soon as all the paper work is completed and approved by the Nigerian Government. Our first shipment will go to a WBS facility in Abak and those in the school in Abakaliki will come down and pick up the tracts, they need for evangelism. Remember our Nigerian brethren and all the difficult trials they go through each day; their country is near civil war because of gangs of hoodlums who burn, steal and kidnap in the larger towns. Belt Line is very involved in helping MP evangelize the world with the printed page. **We always need more collators in the Jr. Auditorium on Sunday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm.** Gearldean Jones is taking boxes of tracts home to collate each week. You may prefer to do this; if so let me know. God saved us to help save others.

Have a good week in the Lord.

~ Richard L. Renfro

“...And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, and said, Ye men of Athens, in all things, I perceive that ye are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain even of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Being then the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man. The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead” (Acts 17:22-31).

Sound Doctrine

“I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers in a pure conscience, how unceasing is my remembrance of thee in my supplications, night and day longing to see thee, remembering thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; having been reminded of the unfeigned faith that is in thee; which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and, I am persuaded, in thee also. For which cause I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee through the laying on of my hands. For God gave us not a spirit of fearfulness; but of power and love and discipline. Be not ashamed therefore of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but suffer hardship with the gospel according to the power of God; who saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before times eternal, but hath now been manifested by the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death, and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, whereunto I was appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher. For which cause I suffer also these things: yet I am not ashamed; for I know him whom I have believed, and I am persuaded that he is able to guard that which I have committed unto him against that day. Hold the pattern of sound words which

thou hast heard from me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee guard through the Holy Spirit which dwelleth in us" (2 Tim 1:3-14).

Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus concerning the vitally important theme of "sound doctrine". The word 'sound' is from a Greek word which means "whole or healthful as in hygiene". The wholesomeness of doctrine [what is taught, instructions from God] was according to godliness (1 Tim 6:3). The Apostolic doctrine was to be maintained at all cost (Acts 2:42; Gal 1:6-10; Rom 16:17-20). If anyone did not consent to the wholesome teachings of Christ they had no basis for belief. The early church had to endure and hold fast the sound doctrine against gainsayers and false teachers (2 Tim 4:1-6; Tit 1:9; 2:1-8).

Doctrinal integrity is vital to the progress of the church. New born Christians have a diet of "the sincere milk of the world" and the maturing Christians are fed on the "meat of the word" (1 Pet 2:15; 1 Cor 3:1-9; Heb 5:11-14). The first principles of the doctrine are foundational and of vital importance. Each generation of Christians learn them and practices the principles found therein. Health and wellbeing of the church of Christ depends upon a "diet" of spiritual food. When false doctrine runs rampant "healthful" doctrine is often compromised or ignored. Holding fast to the "form" of sound doctrine and guarding it leads to a healthy life in Christ. Each step of the Christian's way needs the nourishment which is befitting. The presence of good things in a Christian's life strengthens and fortifies. Sound doctrine preserves the church wherein it can rejoice in Christ. Christ is the way, truth and life (Jn 14:1-7). Teachings from the Scriptures lead Christians to wholesome lives. When living soberly, righteously and godly in this present world we look for the blessings and hope found in Jesus Christ. The redeemed show great fidelity and adorn themselves with the "doctrine of Christ" (Tit 3).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, April 18, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Sunday, April 25, 2010

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

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 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

The last Bible class for the Ladies will meet on **April 20th** at 11:00 a.m. with a lesson by Don Hatch; classes will resume in September.

LADIES' ½ DAY

There are signup sheets in the foyer if you would like make a salad for Ladies' ½ Day; cookbooks will be distributed on that day.

39'ers

The 39'ers will meet in the Annex at 6:30p.m. next Monday, **April 19th**. Bring a dish & enjoy the fellowship.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're gearing up for Vacation Bible School **June 14-16th** with the theme on the Prophets. Get the word out to your friends & neighbors & invite them to come.

Also, there is a meeting scheduled for VBS teachers & workers for Sunday, **May 2nd** at 5:00p.m. in the main auditorium.

HELP NEEDED

There is a need for communion preparers; if you are willing to help in this work for one month out of the year, please see Garl Latham.

Also, there is a need for more workers in Mission Printing to staple & collate booklets; if you can help, please meet in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00p.m. on Sunday afternoons.

And, the Gilliam's have a need for ladies to sit with Billie from 6pm until midnight for a few days as their daughter-in-law takes care of some personal health issues herself. If you are able to help in this way, please see the signup sheet in the front foyer.

WORK DAY

The Teens have set aside **Saturday, May 1st** as a work day; please contact Darrell Allen if you have a need.

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to **Michelle Farmer** who graduates from Parker Chiropractic College this Saturday.

IT'S A BOY!

Sylena and Sean Robertson had a baby boy on April 5th, weighing 7#, 14oz. and 20-3/4 inches long. His name is Kyce Lee Robertson; proud grandparents are Tony and Shellie Pearce

WITH SYMPATHY

Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad) passed away in Oklahoma last Friday after a battle with cancer.

Lloyd Jones' (frequent visitor) father passed away, also with cancer.

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Bobby Bowen** has serious health problems.

•**Hank Henry** has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

•**Garldean Latham** fell & has a bump on her head, but seems to be fine.

•**Everett Newton** is in Baylor/Dallas, room #620.

•**Roy Thomas** went to Emergency Care on Saturday; he is ill at home.

•**The Townsend's** are ill at home with allergies; Carol will soon undergo foot surgery.

•**Erik Horn** (Marinell Zaun's grandson) is now home, but not doing well.

•**Bobby Jones** (friend of Dean Webb) has been diagnosed with leukemia.

•**Mabel McPherson** (missionary in Australia) spent some time in the hospital with muscle pain in her chest, but is now home recuperating.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson. Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brenda Alsup (Lotah Franklin's friend), Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- April 18: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- April 18: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- April 19: 39'ers in Annex at 6:30 p.m.
- April 20: Ladies' Bible class at 11:00 a.m. & lunch
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day
- May 1: Youth Work Day
- May 2: VBS teacher/worker meeting main auditorium at 5:00 p.m.
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Jerry Baker
- Marvin Brown
- Rob Farmer
- Scott Price

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
- Romans 8:31-39

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Mike Garrison
- Darrell Allen

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
- Luke 17:11-19

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Garl Latham (last song: Denzil Myers)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Bill Paschall

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	74	85	82	125
A.M. Worship	165	137	144	210
P.M. Worship	77	80	77	112
Wed. Class	67	86	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	27	23	30	35
Contribution	\$6990	\$4533	\$5397	\$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