

August 31, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

September 6, 2009

a.m. *"Tears of Jesus"*

Scripture: John 11:35-44

p.m. *"Burden Bearing God"*

Scripture: Psalm 68:8-19

Righteousness Divine and Human

Don Hatch

Righteousness has a constant proclivity and precept in Scripture. In practical terms righteousness is encountered in all circumstances. The need for it is an important truth that cannot be treated indifferently. Muddling, confusing, twisting and wrangling have darkened the full impact of righteousness. Righteousness and the soul's well-being are intertwined. God's dealing with man and the manifesting of His grace gloriously personifies the need for salvation (Rom 5:21). The progress of a sinner becoming sanctified in Christ underlies the actions of God and man (1 Cor 1:1, 2, 30, 31). God's contact with us and our connections with others is where the simplest ideas of righteousness are resident. It is the doing of right and not a convoluted way of circumventing the doing of right. It displays God as always right and concentrates man's will on being right too. The consistency of godliness with a preoccupation which regards others narrows the acts of righteousness. God is righteous and demands righteousness for without it there can be no fellowship between Creator and creature, creature and creature. Two cannot walk together except they agree. Righteousness cannot have fellowship with unrighteousness (Deut 25:16; 2 Cor 6:14-18). Characteristically God's nature must be typically our character too. When the holiness of God becomes a manner of living, individuals will pass their time in godly fear (1 Pet 1:13-17). God always acts right and in harmony with His nature. Thus, the Christian must also have the nature which is in harmony with righteousness. Doing right is defined by "consistency" in every relationship.

Fellowship with righteousness demands that there is a revelation of how to be righteous. God always acts right and manifests His design, purpose and principles in the scriptures. It is profoundly significant that the acts of righteousness reside in truth (Jn 17:17). In describing righteousness as a nature of God and that man uses it as the only guideline, elevates mankind to a rational being who can make moral choices (Rom 1:17; 3:21-23; Phil 3:9). Man has no righteousness of his own by which he can meet God's inexorable demands. Righteousness cannot be imputed. Christ died that man might share in His righteousness (2 Cor 5:18-20). Fanciful greatness or goodness is reckoned with when man's righteousness is called "filthy rags" (Isa 64:6). In ignorance of God's righteousness mankind seeks to establish their own (Rom 10:3; Eccl 7:20). The human mind is desperately lacking in being able to perceive

righteousness. If personal and vicarious righteousness comes from mankind it would nullify the death of Jesus Christ. Self-righteousness is fallacious, for it is what the Pharisees asserted they had (Lk 18:9; Phil 3:4-9). By such righteousness none can be justified in the sight of God (Rom 1:17; 3:20). The mind of flesh is enmity against God (Rom 8:7). Only the arrogant would claim self-righteousness and deny Him who qualifies one to be righteous. The dreadful end of such would be a rejection of the One who can, through His grace, grant sanctification, righteousness and redemption by His blood 1 Cor 1:30, 31; 2 Cor 5:18-20). If sinners are to have an acceptable standing with God they must turn away from their ruined lives and seek the righteousness of God (Rom 8:7).

Christ upon His cross is the grandest and fullest representation of God's cleansing man of sin (2 Cor 7:1; Eph 5:26; 1 Jn 1:7, 9). The gospel teaches that God is the Just One who justifies those who have obedient faith in Christ (Rom 3:21-30). Grace reigns through righteousness and salvation depends on Christ. Being in Christ allows the sinner to become a child of God (Gal 3:27; Eph 1:23-15; 1 Pet 1:13-25). Justification depends on "someone". Christ who is at the right hand of God allows mankind to be reckoned or counted as "saved" by His blood (Act 20:28). God is gracious and merciful. Those who are consistently living a righteous life display a character and manner of holiness demanded of righteous living (1 Pet 1:13-25). Deception is apparent when one deems himself righteous yet fails to manifest a righteous life and the sure fruit which displays the government of spiritual living. Of course it is not doing righteousness which makes us righteous. Our standing before God is presented as a pivotal and practical righteousness of doing right because we are the children of God.

Living a righteous life with a faithful and minutely consistent deportment displays itself in private and public affairs. Satan's enemy is the Righteous One and His followers who are ever watchful. The righteous are under assault and inconsistencies in any realm leave a weakness allowing the evil one opportunity to attack. Practical righteousness is the keynote to the Sermon on the Mount (Matt 5, 6, 7). One must have a determination to follow righteousness and tread the path the saints have trod. Some say when it comes to choosing always choose the lesser evil. That is false. The righteous seek to exercise a good conscience in all matters great and small (1 Tim 1:7, 19). The nature of the righteous is that they never sacrifice at the shrine of expediency and the whimsical ways of the world. God's grace and mercy are amazing and comprehensive wherein the righteous are blessed. The glorious consummation of a life lived righteously will be the ultimate blessing of being with God in glory (Gal 5:5) We do not hope for righteousness, but by faith we live righteously and gaze on the present and future with the "hope of the righteous".

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age." Amen (Mat 28:18-20).

Fulfilling the Great Commission:

I was privileged last week to meet thousands of dedicated Christians in Ghana, Africa. Our missionary, Willie Gley picked me up at the Accra Airport and right away I noticed something different. Most of the vehicles, buses, cars, taxis and trucks had religious sayings and greetings on the back of their vehicles. This is the most outwardly religious country I have ever seen, out of forty countries in my travels. Willie was a gracious host and took care of me every day, for which I'm very thankful. He is a conscientious and dedicated minister of the Gospel. He is a servant of the Lord in helping student preachers and Christians to learn how to teach and better serve our God. Willie is trying to raise support for the Center Biblical Studies (CBS) in Togo (French language) that has eleven preaching students. Willie is also a fund raiser for Mars Hill School in Ghana that has fifty-two children. He is very active in both of these important projects, but needs funding. Many thousands are being reached through his efforts in World Bible School correspondence courses, aiding World Radio listeners to get Bibles to be converted to the Truth. He travels to Mali, Equatorial Guinea (Spanish language), Liberia and many other places to help lost souls become Christians. Most important to many of us who are actively involved in Mission Printing, Willie has volunteered to distribute thousands of our tracts to West Africa. He is excited about having doctrinally sound material to give to many different areas, such as the biggest hospital in Ghana. Willie has just been given a permit to enter the government hospital at any time to distribute tracts. Willie meets with as many as 60 ministers on the first Sunday of every month and distributes thousand of tracts through them to their home congregations. There are about 100 congregations in the Accra area alone. Mission Printing is now making plans to transport large amounts of printed material to Ghana by the most efficient way. We hope to save thousands of dollars in shipping costs. I will give a full report on the Ghana trip Wednesday night, Lord willing. Also I'm putting together an extensive email with pictures of the trip for anyone with email. Please email the office with your email address. It would save the church postage dollars if you would request email weekly bulletin instead of the snail mail, give it a try. Have a good week in the Lord. Richard L. Renfro

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned” (Mk 16:15, 16).

Prepared for you:

“But when the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the angels with him, then shall he sit on the throne of his glory: and before him shall be gathered all the nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as the shepherd separateth the sheep from the goats; and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats one left. **Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:** for I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous

answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, and fed thee? or athirst, and gave thee drink? And when saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? And when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into the eternal fire which is prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry, and ye did not give me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me not in; naked, and ye clothed me not; sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer, saying, Lord, when saw we thee hungry, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not unto one of these least, ye did it not unto me” (Mat 25:31-45) [bold and underlined DH].

This wonderful promise is expressly for the living believers who are recognized as the faithful. Christ’s ascension to the right hand of the Father to become the Mediator gives great hope and joy. The care He affords and love He bestows are matchless in the entire universe. The context gives a contrasting view of the sheep and goats. One is blessed and bidden to be with the Father. In the Father’s house are many mansions prepared for the redeemed (Jn 14:1-5). For them He has prepared a wonderful kingdom in which they can fully serve their great King here on earth. He assures them that all they do is not in vain (1 Cor 15:57, 58).

Nothing will compare to that wonderful abode. Earth holds no treasures but that they perish with the using no matter how precious they may be. Why should we long for this world with its sorrows when heaven holds all for us? Millions will sing of the blessing and rejoice in the presence of the Father. “Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, and which entered not into the heart of men, whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him” (1 Cor 2:9).

Paul manifested his great hope of heaven. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Rom 8:18). Heaven is prepared for the redeemed. It is prepared for you.

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, September 6, 2009

Front foyer: JC& Dessie Ross; Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Sunday, September 13, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

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.

NEW BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

The new quarter will begin on **September 6th**. Teachers, let the office know if you need anything.

SUMMER SERIES

We had a great Summer Series; plans are going forward for next year. We hope everyone was edified & built up in the Holy Faith.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank our Christian brothers & sisters for all your prayers & thoughts during the long illness of our brother, David McDaniel. The flowers you sent at the time of his passing were beautiful; we appreciate all the cards, calls, & words of comfort. We are truly blessed to be a part of the Belt Line Christian family. In Christian love, Mike & Elizabeth Garrison.

NEW BIBLE CLASS

Henry Seidmeyer will begin a new study in the Auditorium on Wednesday evening on Hebrews beginning September 9th.

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed next **Monday, September 7th** in observance of Labor Day. Please contact one of the elders or Don if you have a need that day.

THOSE TO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER

Lord's table (front): Purman Cofer, Jerry Baker, Dorris Walker, Marvin Brown, Mike Garrison, Bill Matthews, Ty Harvey, Rob Farmer;

(back): JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Derrol Allen, Brandon Howard, Bobby Bowen, Virgil Laferney.

p.m. Darrell Allen, Garl Latham

Card Pickup: a.m. Cole & Ethan Howard; **p.m.** Nathan Allen, Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: Ty Harvey, Mike Garrison

Communion Preparers: Bill & Linda Matthews

NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Everett Newton** is doing better following treatments.
- **Cathy Taylor** underwent successful surgery last Thursday & is home doing well.
- **Leo Townsend** is in Methodist Hospital/Dallas, ICU #8 & listed as stable today (8/31) following cancer surgery.
- **Thomas Bradshaw** (BC Fowler's brother-in-law) will undergo surgery for rotary cuff repair & carpal tunnel; he also has heart problems.
- **Raymond Forbes** (Debra Alonzo's father) is in an Oklahoma hospital with possible pneumonia & for tests.
- **Orlando Grantham** (Marion's brother) has received treatments & is doing better.
- **Wil Sadler** (Military Missionary) has undergone 4 recent surgeries & also suffered a severe reaction to medications.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Gwen Bingham, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Louise Gierling (former member & Tom Gierling's mother), Ilya Yakimenko (son of missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- August 30: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- August 30: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- September 6: New Bible School Quarter

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Brandon Howard
- Bobby Bowen
- Virgil LaFerney

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Grady Fowler

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham
John 11:35-44

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Denzil Myers

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Psalm 68:8-19

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

· Ty Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

· Darrell Allen
· Garl Latham

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	85	99	93	125
A.M. Worship	152	161	156	210
P.M. Worship	92	80	86	112
Wed. Class	93	88	81	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$4479	\$5594	\$5361	\$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