

**April 19, 2010**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**April 25, 2010**

a.m. *"The Son of Man Came"*

Scripture: Luke 19:1-10

p.m. *"Life and Light"*

Scripture: Psalm 36:5-12

**The Bible Has Influence**

Don Hatch

**A magnificent test of the Bible** is what it does to the life and character of those who read and practice what is found in its pages. Ultimately it is aptly stated as "by their fruits shall you know them". In a common-sense manner Jesus asked, "...do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles?" Certainly not! Here is a criterion by which we can determine between false and true. Nature's law and the God of Nature set forth profound details. In the natural and spiritual world all things reproduce after their own kind (1 Cor 15:35-49). The yielding of fruit is because of the seed bringing forth the plant and ultimately fruit. The law of morals is invariable, in every departure of mankind from the original moral base there is produced a fruit of the vilest nature. This corrupt fruit reproduces after its own kind until the next tree produced by this bad seed yields a corrupted fruit. Judge a tree by its fruit (Mat 7:16-23).

**Judging the Bible** by its fruits is critical to knowing its values and virtues. A judicial reader can pick and choose what is best for him. The test question is, "what is the fruit of this book?" Does it enlighten or burden, set the soul free or encumber it, are its thoughts good or reprehensive? Does it cleanse the conscience or defile it? Will it contribute to the betterment or worsening of ones being? Does it furnish the preparation for a better future life? A list of the world's greatest books would include fiction, history, poetry, language, natural science, mathematics, philosophies, drama, politics, religion, economics and ethics. The list would be broadened by influences of character and its inclinations towards moral values. Here is the singular fact: no matter how many lists are made inevitably on that list will be the Bible. This is worth emphasizing because it indicates the practical consensus that this particular book is likely to be beneficial inasmuch as it is known for doing good. Repeatedly the merit of the Bible is placed under the microscope of human history. The decisive factor remains, "what are its fruits?"

**Fortunately the Bible's fruits** are well known. History is abundantly generous to the Bible manifesting that it is a companion of all good and successful endeavors of mankind. The fact that it exists is evidence of its survival of the fittest of all books man has read. It is the one book which the world has known of for centuries and faultlessly it has guided them to better things. Men have not been willing to let this book die. What is the character of those who correctly and

rightly divide it? From the mightiest, martyrs, pioneers, philanthropist, public benefactors, renowned for benefits to others the Bible is a companion from which they drew inspiration. Time fails us to name the characters of history who claimed such influences by the Word of God. The “Forefathers of the United States” serve as a rallying point to demonstrate the Bible’s influence. We find public documents filled with allusions and quotations from this great volume.

**When tested in the life** of an average man. Mothers, fathers, families and neighbors who practice the principles of the Bible are better because of applied and teachable values. Is anyone hurt by those of deep devotion to God’s word? Are there better people because of His word? Do you know any who plucked a bad fruit from its branches?

**What of other books** like Analects of Confucius? Among those who practice his teachings there are descriptions of the adherents being filled with deception, fraud, lying, quarrelling, slander, cursing, intrigues, brawling, theft, extortion, robbery, piracy, suicide, infanticide, murder and drugs. This is because **Confucianism** is distinctively a moral and not a religious system, avowed to take no notice of God. The Vedas of Brahman in India are among the most shameful and prevalent persons disregarding right and wrong. Their cabalistic [*secret or hidden meaning*] teachings are “I am God! I am God! They live and die with blasphemy on their lips. The **Buddhist** professes to believe in immortality but believe in **Nirvana** which is the ultimate extinction of personality. Who wants immortality if there are no remembrances? The pampering of monkeys, paying beggars to propitiate sins and having sacred pigs while allowing others to die of starvation is odd. What of those of **Islam**, who war, have slavery, believe that the martyred have harems of slave women and that a person can commit suicide if dying in their god’s name. By questioning these books we find that when the fruit of their practices is compared to the fruit of a Christian’s practices a striking difference is manifested. The Bible is a good influence! When asked the critics of the Bible always profess that it does awe inspiring things for society. Every society guided by its true values has been better. Christians claim to be people doing good in the name of Christ. It is why when Christians depart from the truth Bible-haters have such a “filed-day”. Have you ever seen “another **infidel** has broken the law?” Why not? The Bible’s influence!

**The Christian religion** universally meets all human needs. Such is fundamental and indispensable. God is Omniscient [all knowing] and His nature is to bring to bear upon humans provisions which correspondingly will make them better. Christianity immediately transcends all other religions because it perfectly adapts mankind’s senses and reason to the will of God. Christianity is the most sensible religion in the world. Christianity has an influence in the world and will put us in good standing in the next. By allowing the Bible to influence a life, there are eternal blessing ahead.

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

Since 2006, Belt Line Road has sponsored Ian McPherson in Devonport, Tasmania, Australia with collecting his US financial support and banking for him. That helped Ian use a ATM card for his financial needs anytime he wished, a very important function for our missionaries. Ian is grateful for our participation in sponsoring him. This demonstrates that you can help missionaries without contributing monthly financial support. As you will read below, Ian is still

baptizing the lost in Australia even though he is retiring full time work. God bless Ian and Mabel for even greater things.

Retiring From Full Time Work on June 30<sup>th</sup>:

Mabel and I have decided that we will retire from full time work in June of this year. Age and health are both contributing factors. I have been preaching in Australia since I graduated from Preaching School in 1974. Mabel has always been by my side as a wonderful preacher's wife, and mother to our children. I have qualified for an Australian Pension since I was 65. I will be 68 years old in on July 7. Mabel however is 5 years younger than I am so she cannot receive a pension until 2012. This will mean that we need to generate some extra income until this time. However we are looking forward to the change in lifestyle and believe that the Lord will look after us. We obviously have mixed feelings, but believe now is a good time for this to happen. The church here is unified and Brett Rutherford is an extremely competent preacher, and will continue as our full time evangelist. We also have very good men here. We have Greg Shea and our son Alex who have both been through preaching school, and are already helping out on the preaching roster. Mabel and I plan to remain in Devonport and continue to work as retirees in whatever capacity we can. However working at our own pace with less obligations and schedules is inviting to us. We have no idea what new doors the Lord might open for our life, but if He decides to spare us more time in this wonderful world, we look forward to this new chapter in our life. As we look back on our life, we are overawed at how richly the Lord has blessed us. We have been married for 44 fantastic years, our five children happily married to Christian mates, and our twelve wonderful grandchildren. We have also been blessed with a great brotherhood. We especially appreciate all those churches and individuals who have supported us and are presently supporting us over the 38 years we have been working for the church in Australia.

BAPTISM!!!!Natasha Rothwell was baptized into Christ. She was contacted through follow up of the DVD mail outreach we had last year. Mabel and I have been studying with her and her Mum for several months. They have been coming regularly to all our church services since the first day we studied. Natasha is 18 years old. It is great that Hannah Sumpter who was baptized recently is around the same age. It is also great because we now have Christians from all the age groups in our fellowship. Ian and Mabel  
Richard L. Renfro

***Ladies, remember the Ladies' 1/2 Day! Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00am - 12:30pm ~ Noon Luncheon~***

#### THE LORD IS WITH US

**Many individuals in history** demonstrate that God in His providence has watched over their lives. One of the most beloved characters in Bible history is Joseph. From youth to death God constantly involved Himself in the blessing of his life. Joseph deserves a few moments to recognize him as a prominent personality who loved and honored God. His life blessed countless others.

**One of the most famous** parts of Joseph's life was while he was in Egypt. He was recognized by Potiphar, when a young man, as one with integrity. Potiphar admitted God was with Joseph (Gen 39:3). He was placed in charge of the house of Potiphar as an "overseer". The scandalous wife of Potiphar soon sought to involve him in a lurid affair. He said he could not sin against God in such a manner. He was put in prison and while there he was put in charge. He interpreted the dreams of two servants of the Pharaoh who had been imprisoned. One of them, a butler, was restored to his position and when Pharaoh had a dream the butler told Pharaoh only Joseph could interpret his dream. Joseph interpreted the dream and was made second only to Pharaoh. Eventually he had his entire family with him in Egypt. The entire story centers on God's providence in Joseph's life. The Lord was with him. Joseph deserves special recognition among the Patriarchs for his faithfulness and courage. He encourages us to remain faithful in the face of overwhelming obstacles. He was gracious in his victories. His life was a paragon of virtue in which all can rejoice. God's favor was lavished on his family. Because of Joseph the nation of Israel flourished.

**Joseph was renowned** as a leader who saw his duty and preformed it admirably. He was at the head of a long list of faithful Bible heroes. **Moses** was one of God's faithful men. **Joshua** was known for his leadership in the conquest of the Promised Land (Josh 6:27). **Caleb**, of the tribe of Judah, well advanced in years, took the hard task of the hill country. His military strength manifested God's blessing were upon him (Jdg 1:9). **Samuel** was called early to the task of a prophet. He is recognized as stately and pious (1 Sam 3:19). The second king of Israel, **David**, had a cadre of events in his life which demonstrated God was providentially working to see that the nation of Israel was blessed. Others like **Josiah**, **Hezekiah**, the **prophets Daniel** and **John the Baptizer** all were faithful and blessed by Jehovah. Because of God's blessings these and others were triumphant. Because of their faithfulness God could use them.

**The promise of Jesus to the church** is an assurance that He will never leave, nor forsake her (Mat 28:18-20 Heb 13:1-5). This encouragement from God gives us courage to tell others of His saving grace. The church is blessed because of her faithfulness.

**This Saturday the ladies will have their 9<sup>th</sup> annual ½ day.** Great blessings will come from this special day. Generally there are several other congregations represented and other guests. Like in the life of Joseph and others we can see God using this faithfulness to His glory. We are proud of these faithful ladies. They have been doing the Ladies ½ day for many years and it is always a huge spiritual success. Sister Sarah Fallis is a dynamic teacher. Her lesson this year is timely, **Ladies Hold The Keys**. The behind the scenes work that goes on is one of the "keys" to its success. Many ladies have given richly of their time and talents to make this a "spiritual" time. **We hope every lady will take advantage** of this series of lessons and fellowship. The salad luncheon at noon is always a favorite time for fellowship and joy. God bless these sisters.

Don Hatch

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, April 25, 2010**

**Front foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

**Back foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

### **Sunday, May 2, 2010**

**Front foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby; Max Melton

**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.

### **LADIES**

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.

### **WORK DAY**

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

### **BIBE LECTURESHIP**

Hawn Freeway is holding a Bible Lectureship entitled "God's Peace" on April 18-21, 2010. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're gearing up for Vacation Bible School **June 14-16<sup>th</sup>** 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 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 5:00 p.m. in the main auditorium.

### THANK YOU

Dear Belt Line Church family, we want to thank all of you for your prayers, cards, visits, calls, food, & concern during the loss of my husband. Ladies' Bible class, thank you for all the wonderful desserts, May God bless each & every one of you. Love, Dana Hodgkins & family.

### RESPONSE

**Beverly Sweat** responded to the Lord's invitation last evening asking for forgiveness & for strength.

### MORE HELP NEEDED

One more spot is open for this week if you're able to sit with Billie Gilliam. Please see the signup sheet for this **Saturday, April 24**.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Johnny Best** (the Kelly's brother-in-law) passed away last week; services are pending.

### NEWS OF THE SICK

- Charlene Carroll** took a fall, but is doing well.
- Grady Fowler's** mother fell, but only suffered bruising.
- Melissa Green** (the Fowler's friend) has been diagnosed with cancer.
- Gail Hieronymus** (Mike Garrison's daughter) is having serious family problems.
- Bonnie Lee Robins** (father-in-law of Linda Head's daughter) has inoperable cancer & is being kept comfortable now.
- Virgil Thomas** (friend of the Matthews') is very ill in a Searcy, AR hospital with a serious blood infection as well as an attack of rheumatoid arthritis.

### CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Bobby Bowen, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Hank Henry, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Everett Newton, 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
- John Mayer
- Dean Webb

### A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
- Luke 19:1-10

### A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

### SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Myers
- Thomas Rathbun

### P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
- Psalm 36:5-12

### P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker (last song: Jerry McKey)

### LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Glen Kelly
- Bill Paschall

### COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Garl Latham

## 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	75	82	125
A.M. Worship	137	154	144	210
P.M. Worship	80	73	77	112
Wed. Class	86	76	77	110
Ladies Bible Class	23	22	29	35
Contribution	\$4533	\$5038	\$5391	\$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