

**March 31, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**April 6, 2008**

a.m. *"Human & Divine In Conversion"*

Scripture: Acts 8:26-31

p.m. *"A Heart Opened To God"*

Scripture: Acts 16:11-15

**Roaming Through Romans**

Don Hatch

The message of the book of Romans is the gospel, the power of God unto salvation (Rom 1:16, 17). The fact that only in the Bible is God's righteousness taught brings the full force of divinity against all additions or subtractions from the gospel. The gospel is the way the Godhead brings the message of salvation to mankind (Rom 1:1, 18-20). Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection established the New Covenant setting mankind free from sin (Rom 6:23). Confirmation of this Covenant was through the miraculous intervention of God (Rom 15:19). When the New Testament was completed the fullness of God's blessings and man's obligations were manifested (Rom 16:25, 26). Preaching the message was indispensable (Rom 10:1-17). Faith and obedience are not mutually exclusive to one another (Rom 1:5; 15:18; 16:19, 26). All who believe and obey the gospel can be saved (Rom 1:5; 16:26). Demonstrations of God's blessings fill the pages of the gospel accounts deliberately making mankind aware of their utter dependence upon God for salvation (Rom 1:3, 4; 5:1-11). Reasons for faithfulness are presented identifying Jesus as the Commander of our salvation (Heb 3:1). He issues commands to be followed helping us function as heirs of salvation (Rom 5:1-11; 16:19, 26). Warnings are to be heeded and promises received (Rom 2:1-16; 5:9-11; Heb 2:1-5). Motivations for faithfulness are heavenly with spiritual blessings (Eph 1:3-15). Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is proclaimed in the gospel. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, whose loving dispensing of the message of grace, compelled Paul to preach the gospel (Rom 1:15).

The doctrine of godly character is a large part of the teaching in Romans. Invisible things of God are clearly seen from the foundation of the world (Rom 1:18-20). Excuses are so lacking that none can offer an equitable explanation to justify unbelief. God's historical undertaking to save man is the Gospel's theme. Everlasting power has been distinctly evident through the ages. Knowing there is a God sets an unequivocal, particular direction for man to seek after God (Acts 17:22-31; Eph 1:3-15). Superstitions abound, but God is not found there. Worldly indifference, gross immorality and belief that God is the worst of all possible things which could befall the world will not weaken God. God assures mankind that He loves them. "Christendom" in a larger sense stumbles in her effort to give God glory. Only a remnant has stayed the course of faithfulness. These are those who return to the Bible as a chart and compass to eternal life leaving creeds and doctrines of men in the mold and dust of the useless.

The book of Romans teaches what man desperately needs. Mankind is not without responsibility and accountability. God will call mankind to give a reason for particular actions (Rom 2:3-16). Man cannot merit salvation. Romans makes it clear that man's actions are

involved in whether or not he is to be saved (Rom 6:15-18). In an age, wishing to exclude God's wrath, mankind asserts that there is no law for man to obey (Rom 1:23-28; 2 Thes 1:6-10). For God to be just and the justifier of mankind Jesus had to die (Rom 3:18-26). Romans points out that some refuse to walk in the light, hence they bring judgment upon themselves. Since the Bible is the Word of God it tells us to accept Christ, obey the divine mandate and concern ourselves with living righteously, godly and soberly in this present world (Tit 2:1-14).

Romans teaches about mankind and the desperate need to hear and heed (Rom 10:1-17). Many deny responsibility for misconduct claiming credit for their achievements. We live in an age of pride which blinds mankind to the facts that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). The book of Romans teaches that mankind is not only responsible but that they are sinners and need God's saving grace. When mankind thinks they are good enough without the blood of Jesus to be saved there is a distorted or biased outlook on life. Romans makes it clear that all need salvation and that it cannot be earned as a wage for work done because that would give man a basis upon which to glory (Rom 3:27,28; 4:4). Man cannot save himself. Some are without self-esteem thinking that unless they earn or merit love they are unloved. Romans assures that although mankind cannot earn God's love they are the object of His love (Rom 5:1-11). The wonderful story of the gospel is that ungodly sinners, weak and defiled humanity, were enemies of God, but Deity commended love to them while in sin through Jesus. Romans teaches the moral law, identifying that when mankind becomes immoral they are lowered in dignity and dishonored (Rom 1:23-32). The law applies to saints and sinners alike who are to obey the truth of the gospel (2 Thes 1:6-10). No one can continue in sin expecting grace to abound (Rom 6:1-11-18). Each is not to live by the flesh but put to death its deeds (Rom 8:1-13). There is law to be obeyed [Law of the Spirit, Law of Christ, Perfect Law, Law of Liberty and Law of Faith]. Romans affirms the need to know the will of God. The law of God is universal and all are amenable to it. Justification by works of the law is impossible because in order to be declared just by the law one must be sinless. Law makes mankind conscious of sin's predatory actions upon their soul (Rom 3:20; 7:7-14). Take the time to learn this book's lessons and rejoice in its expressions of favorable things to come.

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message From Our Shepherds**

Morality and ethics...Is man free to do what is right in his own eyes? Is the standard of value for right and wrong only a function of the mind which depends on nothing more than likes, dislikes or tastes of a mere man? Is morality relative or absolute? Is there an absolute, objective standard of morality and ethics?

Basically there are only two standards for the determining of morality. There are the false man-made subjective standards and there is the right or true objective standard of God...the Bible. The moral standards of man are founded upon the subjective function of the mind and are based on no more than likes and tastes of a mere man, and they change as tastes and likes change from person to person. Such a standard is subjective and false because it implies a logical contradiction, and every doctrine which implies a logical contradiction is false.

If every man is left to set his own rules of conduct, without regard to any objective standard, some would lie, steal and commit murder to accomplish their purposes. To be consistent with a

subjective standard, if one allowed lying or cheating under certain circumstances then he would have to allow others to rape and murder under other circumstances. Without an absolute objective code of morality, there would be no one to say that any action is wrong or should not be done. But there is an absolute standard of morality for all men for all situations. That absolute standard is the Bible. God is, and the truth is His word. Proverbs 16:25, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the ways of death." Proverbs 21:2, "Every way of a man is right in His own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts."

Therefore, sin is always sin despite man's efforts to excuse his actions. Fornication is wrong even if you don't get caught. Lying and cheating is wrong even if you think you do it for a good cause. Drunkenness is wrong even if others are doing worse things. Stealing is wrong even if it does not bother one's conscience. Homosexuality is wrong even if it is accepted by the majority. Adultery is wrong even if everyone is doing it. Abortion is wrong even if others say it is right. IT IS NEVER RIGHT TO DO WRONG! No one can live in violation of God's law without paying the price of spiritual death (Romans 6:23). Moral relativism has cast our youth and older alike adrift on the sea of subjectivism without an anchor for their souls and the teachers with their false standards of morality have set the sails.

Remember to pray for our sick and shut-ins and those that can and should be present for all services.

Have a great week serving God!

~ Dean Webb

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

### **Mercy and Grace**

Justice is getting what we deserve. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Grace is getting what we could never deserve. Mercy is God's action toward each person. It is the divine means of goodness even toward evil and unworthiness. Because all sin and come short of God's glory there is a need for mercy and grace (Rom 3:23; 6:23). Everyone desperately needs God's mercy and grace. Mercy implies a suspending of censure or condemnation to those who deserve it. No sinner wants what is deserved. Our wonderful and compassionate God desires to deal with us gently and in a forgiving way. No one merits the blessings of God, but rather His wrath. We can lay no claim to the right of God's mercy. It is through Christ and His death we can find mercy and grace in times of need (Heb 4:14-16). Learn of Christ's sacrificial death and your salvation in worship Sunday.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the April 4, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

### **Statements Showing Love & Fellowship Among Early Christians**

"Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their own necks for my life..." (Romans 16:3).

“For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me” (Galatians 4:15).

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity” (Philippians 4:10).

“And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul’s neck and kissed him” (Acts 20:36, 37).

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## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, April 6, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby

### **Sunday, April 13, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Brandon Thomason, Kenica Parish, Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

**Back foyer:** Bob & Gwen Bingham

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

### **DIRECTORY CHANGE**

Please delete Ron Baker from your directory as he has moved membership to Birdville.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

Gladys Barnes is a great grandmother for the **15<sup>th</sup>** time! **Chloe Michelle** arrived on March 25<sup>th</sup> weighing 7 lbs. 9 ozs, and was 19 inches long. . This makes 6 girls and 9 boys for Gladys.

We congratulate Gary & Nadya Workman who were married here at the building on Saturday. Gary has been a long-time member; Nadya placed her membership with us yesterday.

### **LADIES**

Ladies' Bible Class will meet **Tuesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. for a lesson by Marinell Zaun.

All ladies are encouraged to mark your calendar for our **April 26<sup>th</sup>** Ladies' ½ Day. Salads will be served for lunch; a sign-up sheet will be available on April 13<sup>th</sup> in the front foyer. **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a "Meet & Greet" at Joann Hatch's from 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm with Sister Polly Cline. Saturday's lessons will focus on "Hunger in My Soul". Polly also plans to speak at our Sunday afternoon class period from 4:45 pm - 5:45 pm in the Annex. Please remember in prayer Sister Cline, the event, & those whom we would like to attend our Bible-based activities. Invitations will be available to mail or hand out to your friends & loved ones.

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Creation was NOT evolution! Vacation Bible School is coming soon, **June 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup>** from 7 pm until 8:15 pm for ages 2 yrs. thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and an adult class. Please sign-up on the sheet in the front foyer to help; there is something for everyone to do.

### **TUESDAY NIGHT SUMMER YOUTH SERIES**

Beginning in **June**, transportation will be provided to area congregations where Bible lessons & fellowship are offered for the Youth.

### **CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP**

There are 2 sessions available at **Cisco in July** for camp for children & young folks, ages 5<sup>th</sup> grade through High School that will last about 1 week. Pre-registration is required; more information will be made available soon.

### **SEARCHING FOR A SERVANT**

Gentlemen, we are in need of someone to add to the rotation to take communion to the sick & shut-in on Sunday afternoons. Please see Darrell Allen if you can help in this capacity.

### **WITH SYMPATHY**

Former member, **Betty Andrews**, passed away last week; services were at the Baird Church of Christ on 3/28. Call the church office if you'd like Kermit's address.

### **SPECIAL WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUMMER SERIES**

Last year, we had a wonderful summer while learning from "Great Chapters of the Bible". It's time to make plans for this year's summer series **June 4<sup>th</sup> – August 27<sup>th</sup>** to hear a different gospel preacher who will teach from a different text each week; our theme: "Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining". **Don't miss any of these lessons!**

### **THANK YOU**

Thank you, brothers & sisters, for all the years of love & encouragement you gave us at Beltline! We can't find the words to fully express our thanks for your wonderful words & gifts our last Sunday with you! With our love, Neil & Nancy Donley.

Thank you so much for the prayers, calls & visits. I couldn't have made it otherwise; come see me! Love you, Jean Haddock

Thank you all so much for all of your prayers for our baby Mary Elaina. Your prayers & concern mean so much even though we are not members. Thank you again! Don, Crystal, Amber, Curtis, & Mary Elaina Vaughan

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

- √**Bob Bingham** got a good report from his heart tests. He has another test to undergo before surgery.
- √**Frances LaFerney** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- √**Tom Prince** was ill over the weekend.
- √**Lewis Porter** (Marcella's brother) is scheduled for surgery on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- √**Mary Scott** will undergo some testing.
- √**Mary Vaughan** (Mary Curtis' new grandbaby) remains in Children's/Dallas, ICU following successful surgery last Thursday.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- Apr 8 – Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 am
- Apr 12 – Shower for Brandon & Kenica in the Annex
- Apr 19 – Teen Work Day
- Apr 26 – Ladies' ½ Day
- June – Summer Youth Series
- June 4-Aug 27 – Wed. Night Summer Series
- June 15 thru 18 –Vacation Bible School
- July – Cisco Youth Camp

### **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

**Sunday morning:**

- Shellie Pearce

**Sunday evening:**

- Debra Alonzo

**LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

**Front Table**

- James Gilliam
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Batot
- Bill Matthews
- Thomas Rathbun
- Dorris Walker

**Rear Table**

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

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Jerry McKey
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Brandon Thomason

**SCRIPTURE READING**

- Jerry Baker
- Acts 8:26-31

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Robert Ruckman
- Ty Harvey

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

- Mike Batot

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

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	90	98	96	125
A.M. Worship	179	172	170	210
P.M. Worship	81	83	92	112
Wed. Class	89	102	93	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	27	28	35
Contribution	\$4828	\$4968	\$5417	\$5400

***MISSIONS***

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Global Missions
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
- JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India
- 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 – Stephenville, TX
- 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