

August 25, 2008

## SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

August 24, 2008

a.m. *"Baptism Is Not Enough"*

Scripture: Acts 2:42-47

p.m. *Fifth Sunday Singing*

### The Ideal Student

Don Hatch

**Teachers seek an ideal student.** Ideal Students study to show themselves approved unto God and rightly divides the word (2 Tim 2:15). When the mind wonders and contemplates what constitutes an ideal student it finds one who learns and applies what is learned. To make a list of the elements of a good student it would catalog all desirable traits found in the Christian. Personal employment of the value system found in Christianity is a striking part of the disciple's overall aim. Characteristically these individuals seek to find, ask, study and employ what has been taught in their daily lives. The possession of genuine interest, desire to have accurate knowledge, clear thinking, sound judgment, scholarly attitude, ability to concentrate and alert to constructive help are major items in the ideal student.

**Pursuit of excellence is a prominent trait** in an ideal student. Seeking to know, understand and consciously being attentive to the values found in the Bible are distinctive attributes. The one who follows Christ Jesus and adheres to the abiding principles is an imitator of the Teacher (Jn 8:31; 15:8). Ideal students are vigorously mentally aware, have a structured life and do not have a hit of miss approach to life. The ideal student has a definite plan, purposes that compares, contrasts and evaluates Christianity with the world (Tit 2:11-14). Grasping the truth involves more than harboring the thoughts of the Master. It must be employed them in the framework of daily living.

**The key to improvement in Christian thinking** is an intelligent, adamant and ardent soundness which is not shaken, but steadfastly holds firmly to self-evident truths. The soundness of conclusions reached helps to make further decisions accurate, resolute and unmovable (1 Cor 15:58). The temperament and disposition of the ideal student causes him to keep the Bible at hand as a ready reference which defines life and pursuit of purity. The sum total of ideal qualities is the experiencing of Christian living which grows day by day (2 Cor 4:16-18). Knowing the absurdity of trying to have fellowship with darkness, idols, evil workers and those who make shipwreck the faith gives the ideal student courage to cleanse himself from all defilement of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). Improvement is a matter of positive emphasis on cultivating a sincere love for truth (Jn 8:32). Self-control cannot be minimized, for it is the means toward having the fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:16-24). Consecration to holiness perpetuates a will to remove undesirable traits and face squarely opposing traits which war against the spirit (2 Tim 2:4).

**The ideal student embraces** the idea that there will be self-improvement throughout life. Knowing how dependable the student must be is an obligation which cannot be bluffed. A crystal-clear gaze into the mirror, not forgetting who and what the student must be demands putting away wrath, filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receiving the engrafted word which is able to save the soul (Jas 1:19-27). Ideal students do not forget what manner of person they must be because they have looked into the perfect law of liberty and continue as hearers who are blessed since they apply the ways of God to the keeping of themselves unspotted from the world. Purity, respect for God, high moral standards, unflinching devotion to right, fairness and loyalty bring a dignity to the ideal student's life.

**Character education** seeks to influence the ideal student to purity, abstaining from all evil and emerges as the Christian ought in all occasions of life. Absolute surrender to Christ as Lord, a vivid sense of what the divine nature requires, escaping from the corruption that is in the world, embraces the virtues of faith, knowledge, self-control, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and love (2 Pet 1:3-11). Humble growth with a victorious awareness of being more than a conquer in Christ is an ever-present value system which reminds the redeemed that God, Christ and Holy Spirit are for them, thus who can be against them (Rom 8:31-39). Therefore, the genuine conviction concerning the faith brings about a willingness to scrupulously recognize the importance of a deepening love for God and the house of faith.

**Spiritually dominant** in the soul of the ideal student is a confidence which integrates a willingness to walk closely to God wherein the prayer is "...search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psm 139:23, 24). When the ideal student examines life and its vicissitudes a trust in God is paramount. Undoubtedly allowing inexcusable bad habits, unnecessary worldly influences destroy the effectiveness of a Christian. It is a matter of nurturing and becoming the person which is identified in the Scriptures. Taking courage, going to God in prayer about any deficiency, seeking, overcoming weakness and devoting time and energy to determine strengths and weaknesses with stern self-discipline is an unceasing practice for the ideal student. The task of teachers is to influence strength and improve qualities which perfect the ideal student into an alert, courageous, prayerful, faithful and predictably determined future teacher of the Scriptures. Set yourself determinedly to strengthen yourself. Refuse to be discouraged and progress in self-mastery for Christ (Phil 4:13).

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message from Our Shepherds**

Are we making plans that we may better serve our God? I believe we all must give serious consideration for each day that God blesses us with.

Our life is only a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away (James 4:14). Let's all dedicate our lives to give greater service to Him that gave His life for us, that we might live eternally! In reading and studying God's word we will strengthen our resolve and loyalty to our Creator.

Our regular attendance will demonstrate our love for God and exhort our brothers and sisters in Christ. We need to contribute to the Lord as we have prospered each week. Each day we should rejuvenated our concern for our family members and Christians throughout the world in making us realize how we are blessed.

Today is our opportunity as a congregation to help spread God's word to every country we can. Many are depending on us to help them find God and to worship Him scripturally. You have done a good job in the past for the Lord, but I challenge you to imagine, plan and execute more in the future than ever before.

Remember Mathew 22:40, "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (referring to Matthew 22:37-39).

Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself".

Have a good week in the Lord.

~ Richard Renfro

---

And when they had come to a place called Golgotha, that is to say, *Place of a Skull*, they gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink. Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.

And they put up over His head the accusation written against Him: THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS (Matthew 27:33-37).

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

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

### **Participation In Worship**

Christians face countless obstacles in life. Worship is a time when Christians renew their strength. Worshiping in a worthy congregation is where the faithful "consider one another to provoke unto love and good works" (Heb 10:24).

No one lives or dies to himself but in some manner we affect others (Rom 14:7, 8). In an assembly with the redeemed there is an affirmation and stimulation to survive in this present evil world (Tit 2:1-14).

The tie that binds Christians in a common cause is fellowship. A careful choice of fellowship causes Christians to cleanse themselves from all defilement of the world (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). As soon as one isolates himself from spiritual fellowship the world will encroach.

The forces of evil are powerful, disheartening and deceitful. Christians need the Lord and each other in their struggle. Do not forsake the assembling together each Lord's day. Worship with us and together we will bravely face each day confidently and passionately in our common goal.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the August 29, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, August 31, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney; Jamie & Megan Little

**Back foyer:** Bill & Linda Matthews

### **Sunday, September 7, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Grady & BC Fowler; Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

## **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.

### **LADIES**

We will meet on **Tuesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. in the Annex to work on bears. Please join us!

The Sunday afternoon Ladies' Class will begin on **September 7<sup>th</sup>** in room #201 at 4:45 p.m. Mike Batot will be our guest speaker.

Also, the Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will begin again on **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. with Brother Don Hatch as our guest speaker. Lunch will follow; mark your calendar!

### **SUMMERTIME GOSPEL PREACHING**

Our theme this year is "Give Me the Bible, Holy Message Shining". The final Wednesday evening lesson is entitled "**There is A Church**" & will be brought to us by our Brother Henry Seidmeyer. Scripture reference: Ephesians 1:15-23.

### **BIBLE CLASS FALL 1/4**

Due to Leap Year, the fall quarter Bible classes are scheduled to begin on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. These are promotion days. Teachers, let Brother Hatch know if you need supplies.

### **IN APPRECIATION**

Dear 39ers, we are so thankful for your love, prayers, & concern shown toward Nancy & our family. Nancy fully supported the work at Christ's Haven & your generous donation made in her passing to this cause would have meant a lot to her & is appreciated by us all. She loved you all & appreciated the encouragement you gave her. Love, Mike Batot & Ann Ryon.

Also, words are not enough to express our appreciation for the thoughts, prayers, support, & plant received on behalf of my dad's passing. The inner strength received from your love has made each day easier. You are a blessing in my life. In Christian love, Mike Batot & the Paul Batot family.

Your cards, visits, calls, & prayers encouraged me during my hospital stay & my continued recovery at home. What would we do without the support of our fellow Christians? Thank you, Jane Easter.

We would like to thank all our brothers & sisters in Christ for the calls, cards, & prayers. I'm still recovering but am much better. Please continue to remember my daughter, Debbie Gomez as she is awaiting results from the removed tumors. You lift us up; thank you, Linda & Tom Head.

### **WITH SYMPATHY**

**Jeff Dyess** (Jean Haddock's grandson) passed away Friday night, possibly from a massive stroke. A memorial is scheduled for this Wednesday (8/27) at 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel of Roses Funeral Home on Irving Blvd.

**Richard Freeman** (Gayle Ratcliff's grandfather) passed away on Saturday.

## **PRAYER CONCERNS**

- **Bob Bingham** has a doctor's appointment tomorrow (8/26) to determine the next step.
- **Billie Gilliam** is undergoing tests for severe back pain.
- **Harold Keller** will undergo surgery on September 11<sup>th</sup> to replace his pacemaker and defibrillator unit.
- **Gail Hieronymus** (Mike Garrison's daughter) suffers with many serious health problems.
- **Dorothy McCullom** (mother of the Webb's niece) suffers with cancer.
- **David McDaniel** (Elizabeth Garrison's brother) has an aortic aneurysm along with other heart-related issues.
- **Ema Lea Martin** (Elizabeth Garrison's sister) suffers with Alzheimer's disease & has severely declined since breaking her hip six months ago.
- **Linda Woodruff** (the Webb's neighbor) underwent heart surgery last week.
- **Bette Yearwood** (Becky Henry's sister) will have surgery tomorrow (8/26) to remove cancer from her throat.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Joy Gilliam (the Gilliam's daughter-in-law), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

## **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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

- Aug 27: Wed. Night Summertime Preaching, Henry Seidmeyer
- Sept 7 & 10: Bible Class promotion days & Fall ¼ begins
- Sept 7: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Class at 4:45 p.m.
- Sept 9: Tuesday morning Ladies' Class at 11:00 a.m. w/ lunch
- Sept 13: Ladies' 'Intreat' at Keller Church of Christ; speaker, Beverly McKey
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

## **NURSERY ATTENDANTS**

### **Sunday morning:**

- Debra Alonzo

### **Sunday evening:**

- Julie Roses

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

### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Bobby Bowen
- Virgil LaFerney
- Keith Vaughn
- Bill Paschall
- Jeremy Hardegree

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

- Richard Renfro
- Tom Prince
- Darrell Allen

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

- Rob Farmer
- Acts 2:42-47

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

- Mike Garrison
- Stan Selby

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

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

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

- Darrell Allen

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

	<b><u>Last Week</u></b>	<b><u>This Week</u></b>	<b><u>YTD Avg.</u></b>	<b><u>Goal</u></b>
Sun. Class	87	87	95	125
A.M. Worship	160	152	167	210
P.M. Worship	93	105	95	112
Wed. Class	115	101	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$5184	\$4738	\$5383	\$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 – Stephenille, 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