

February 15, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 28, 2010

a.m. *"A Good Reckoning"*

Scripture: Romans 8:18-25

p.m. *"A Lamp of the Lord"*

Scripture: Proverbs 20:27-30

Kingdom Of God **Don Hatch**

The Theocratic Nation of Israel was ruled by God wherein He allowed earthly rulers to have partial sovereignty (1 Sam 8:4-9). These kings were ultimately to be in subjection to God. The ideal kingdom had its basis in prophecies of the Old Testament where the coming Messiah would reign and be the sovereign. The New Testament gives the kingdom several names and declared aspects of it as typical of the Kingdom of Christ (Mat 6:31; Lk 4:43; Jn 3:3-5; Eph 5:4; 2 Tim 4:8). Prophecies foretold that the Messiah would establish a kingdom which would call all mankind out of darkness into light. Individuals like Anna, Simeon, Zacharias and Joseph understood that something special was to take place (Lk 1:67-79; 2:25-30; 23:44-51). Jesus foretold the universal nature of the kingdom but it was not fully understood or appreciated. A temporal kingdom was to be replaced with a spiritual one (Jn 18:33-38).

Jewish traditions foresaw the kingdom being an earthly one, restoring ancient worship, reforming moral and spiritual corruption, making expiation for sins, freeing the Jews from foreign oppression and at length reign over the entire earth (Mat 5:19; 8:12; 18:1; 20:21; Lk 17:20; 19:11; Acts 1:6). This temporal sense of the kingdom was foreign to the scriptures. Jesus did not state that He was called upon to fulfill those theocratic aspirations which would lead to an earthy political character for the kingdom. Jesus' foreordained plan was spiritual and universal, not guided by political designs, nor was it to include worldly interest within or without. Jesus announced that His kingdom was unique. Prophecies had announced that the kingdom would set the captive free and deliver all from the "foe".

Jesus demonstrated that the greatest foe to man was "Satan" and being in sin was a bondage greater than any earthly servitude. Jesus regarded Himself to be the Saviour and Redeemer who came to save the world, to destroy the works of the devil, annihilate powers of evil and bring mankind from darkness into the kingdom of light. A true understanding of the prophets demonstrates that Jehovah sought to unite mankind in a state of holiness. Jesus

came to reconcile mankind into a “house of God” (1 Tim 3:14-16). Thus, He gave mankind an access to the Father (1 Cor 5:14-7:1). The redeemed would have supreme spiritual blessings (Eph 1:3-15). Jesus communicated that contrary to traditions; He was offering spiritual blessings which exceeded the physical blessings sought by the Jews. These blessings were consistent with an unending fellowship with God (1 Jn 1:1-5). Jesus sought to give the saved a hope of emancipation and eternal life based upon faithfulness and obedience. The kingdom was to be mighty and enduring which would eclipse the perishable and limited earthly aspirations held by the Jews. The rise of the kingdom was to be a higher and more spiritual sense, establishing a religion and intentionally creating a oneness of faith in God with pure desires to grow and reach perfection in body, soul and mind. The rise and progress of the kingdom was within man, opposing wickedness and providing a means to be the spiritually pure and holy people of God. It had no political designs for it was not of this world and there were no ranks of graduation as an earthly community (Mat 20:25). The prime elements of a pure mind, pious actions, devotion to God and seeking to be pleasing to God generated a kingdom of righteousness. Hence, the kingdom of Christ is comprised of those who turned to Him in faith and life abiding in truth as His ambassadors. Religious and moral truth works together drawing under their influence the soul which seeks a state of purity unknown to the world. The head of the kingdom is called “Lord, Master, and Saviour” depicting sovereignty greater than a mere earthly kingdom. Those in the kingdom became sons and daughters in the house of God (1 Tim 3:14-16; 2 Cor 6:14-18). Believers persist in the narrow way sensing love and confidence shapes their lives (Mat 7:13, 14). Chief responsibilities of righteousness, duty and honor are spiritual cornerstones. Sacredness was to become a daily habit and profane items were to be displaced.

The Christians received Jesus Christ as the Messiah who united all mankind in His kingdom (Col 1:13-19; Gal 3:27-29; Rev 1:6). This kingdom was to exhibit principles which were to be embodied in worshiping by spirit and truth (Jn 4:23, 24). It is more than mere accent to the principle of Jesus’ Lordship that is to be a foundation of service in His name. The redeemed enjoy all spiritual blessings, awaiting Christ’s coming to be swept up into glory with Him to live forever in the heavenly realm (Jn 14:1-5; 1 Thes 4:13-18). The blessings Christ offers are incalculable both in this life and the life to come. The rise and progress of the kingdom has been opposed by the wicked but they can never overcome it. At length the kingdom and its subjects will be eternally blessed. Christ’s infinite power and sovereign authority over all that is in heaven and on earth give the church a charge to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Mat 28:18-20).

Christ manifested His kingdom with power and promised to never leave Her unguarded. All mankind can receive, by faithful obedience, the kingdom which cannot be shaken wherein they can offer service well-pleasing to God with reverence and awe (Heb 12:18-29). The kingdom of God punctuates history with an exclamation mark. It is an eternal kingdom which cannot be shaken.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Is baptism by sprinkling, splashing, christening, or immersion? We don't have a choice on the subject of baptism. What instruction does the Bible teach us about baptism?

The teachings about baptism are very clear. They are recorded in the Bible. The Bible mentions at least six Baptisms; (1) baptism of Israel (I Cor. 10:2), (2) baptism of John (Mk. 1:4-5), (3) Christ's baptism of suffering (Mk. 10:38-39), (4) baptism in the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11, Acts 2:1-4), (5) great commission baptism (Matt. 28:18-20), which is water baptism in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38), and (6) baptism in fire (Matt. 3:11-13). But in Eph. 4:5, the Bible plainly declares that there is only one baptism. That is, there is now only one valid baptism in effect today that man can obey, and the others have ceased.

The one baptism of Christianity is immersion, a burial (Rom. 6:4), in water (Acts 8:35), of the penitent (Acts 2:38), believing (Mk. 16:16), adult (Acts 8:12), for (in order to) the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

It identifies with or reenacts the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (Rom. 6:3-5). It is commanded by Christ (Acts 10:48), and is necessary for entrance into Christ's spiritual body -- the church (Gal. 3:27, I Cor. 12:12). Baptism is part of the new birth (John 3:3-5), prerequisite to salvation from sins (Acts 22:16, 2:38, 1Pet. 3:21), and prior to one's reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). It is a declaration of one's faith in God (Col. 2:11-12), and the point of beginning for one's new life in Christ (Rom. 6:3-6). Notice that new life comes after baptism, NOT before. It reaches or applies the blood of Christ (Rom. 6:4), and saves on the virtue or merits of Christ's blood (I Pet. 3:21). It gives one the scriptural right to wear the name Christian (Acts 28:26).

Immersion in water after one believes and repents causes a spiritual cleansing of one's soul by the power of the blood of Christ, not water, (Acts 22:16), 1 Pet. 3:21), and is an act of faith in response to the grace of God which justifies sinners (Col.11-13, Tit. 2:5, Mk. 16:16). One who has received this baptism is saved by grace through faith, and those that have not received Bible baptism is still lost in their sins. We need to make sure we have been scripturally baptized. We need to forget what man has written and said about baptism and restudy anew what the Bible says about it.

Remember the sick and shut-ins in your prayers. Hope to see you at the assemblies. Have a great week serving God!

~ Dean Webb

"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all" (Eph 4:1-6).

God is in the Details

"Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion; and unto thee shall the vow be performed. O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Iniquities prevail against me: As for our transgressions, thou wilt forgive them. Blessed is the man whom thou choosest, and causest

to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, Thy holy temple. By terrible things thou wilt answer us in righteousness, Oh God of our salvation, Thou that art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, And of them that are afar off upon the sea: Who by his strength setteth fast the mountains, Being girded about with might; Who stilleth the roaring of the seas, The roaring of their waves, And the tumult of the peoples. They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it, Thou greatly enrichest it; the river of God is full of water: Thou providest them grain, when thou hast so prepared the earth. Thou waterest its furrows abundantly; Thou settlest the ridges thereof: Thou makest it soft with showers; Thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness; and the hills are girded with joy. The pastures are clothed with flocks; the valleys also are covered over with grain; they shout for joy, they also sing" (Psalm 65:1-13).

Psalm 65 gives a delightful insight into the rich and wonderful providence of God. He is praiseworthy and individuals should vow to love and honor Him. They can pledge themselves in service to Him filling their lives with praise for His graciousness forgiveness of their sins and iniquities. God's creation speaks of how wonderful He is and His handiworks magnify His name in all the earth. After creation God manifested His continuing love through His perpetual blessings. God cares for His creatures, expressly mankind. God allows mankind to approach Him in worship and adoration. Jesus' blood cleanses us from our sins and iniquities (1 Jn 1:5-10). Our willingness to confess our sins establishes a link with God through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Savior. God's witnesses are the rain from heaven and fruitful season that fills hearts with gladness (Acts 14:17; 17:25-31).

God's power will calm the roaring sea and tumults which befall mankind. Nothing is too insignificant for His concern. The beginning and end of day manifest His interest and should give mankind something to rejoice over. Being satisfied with God's blessings and approaching Him gives confidence and joy to a soul redeemed by God's love and grace. God enriches every aspect of life. It is noteworthy to see that He strengthens and fortifies those who adore Him. In all nations God bestows grace and mercy upon His children. God brings the rains to refresh the earth. Grains follow the rain and the harvest is plenteous because of God. He feeds the birds of the air, cattle and mankind. He is the Maker and Sustainer of the universe. Not a single sparrow falls to the earth without Him knowing about it (Mat 10:29). Surely, He is concerned about the wellbeing of mankind. He upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb 1:3). God is omnipotent, omnipresent, ever-caring and compassionate.

The invisible things of God are clearly seen, being perceived through the world He created, even His everlasting divinity. "Mankind is without excuse because that knowing God they failed to glorify Him". God is worthy of all praise and glory (Rom 1:18-20). God is in the details.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 28, 2010

Front foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price, Thomas Rathbun

Back foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

Sunday, March 2, 2010

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

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

Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **March 2nd** at 11:00 a.m. with a lesson by Jerry McKey and a luncheon.

39'er BREAKFAST

Please sign up on the sheet located on the table in the front foyer if you plan to come and/or bring a friend to the breakfast on **March 6th** at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex.

PEN PALS

Anyone interested in being a pen pal to one of our missionaries, please see Richard Renfro.

BIBLE SCHOOL QUARTER

The new Bible School quarter will begin Sunday, February 28th & Wednesday, March 3rd. Teachers, let the office know if you need anything.

LECTURESHIP BOOKS

Books from the Shenandoah Lectureship in San Antonio are available for \$9.00. The theme was "The Everlasting Priesthood"; it would be a great asset for any library or private study. Call the church office for more information.

THANK YOU

To the Church Family at Belt Line, Thank you so much for your love & support of the children in our care! God bless, Steve Delaney, Christ's Haven (Rom 15:13). (We gathered 24 bags of groceries.)

Hi, Brothers & Sisters, thank you so much for generous gift. I know that you are very supportive in the mission field & I'm truly blessed to have your support. With your help, I'll be able to learn, study & teach God's Word. I can't wait to meet you in person. In His service, Dan Keele

NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Erma Lee Baker** remains in room #405 at Northgate Plaza.
- **Billie Beverly** will undergo back surgery tomorrow (2/23).
- **Mike Garrison** stayed in over the weekend following a procedure.
- **Joann Hatch** fractured a couple ribs.
- **Lyda McAlister** is in Baylor/Irving, room #653 & requests no visitors at this time.
- **Nancy Pond** will need a procedure on Wednesday. 2/24.
- **Ann Ryon** remains in Baylor/Irving, room #401; she is improving.
- **Beverly Sweat** requests prayers on behalf of her son, Tyrone & his job search.
- **Myrtle Wade** was able to be back in worship yesterday.
- The family of former member **Kermit Andrews** has been called in for his last days.
- **Kathy Bennett** (Marjorie's daughter) underwent a successful procedure last Tuesday.
- **Chip Prude** will have wrist surgery tomorrow (2/23).
- **Mary Elena Vaughan** (Marry Curtis' granddaughter) has a severe ear infection, but her high fever finally broke.
- **Johnnie Williams** is in Baylor/Dallas; prognosis is not good.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), John Williams (Bobbie's son).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- February 28: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- February 28: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- March 2: Ladies' Bible class at 11:00 a.m. & luncheon
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day

- 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
- Grady Fowler
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Brandon Howard

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Darrell Allen
- Richard Renfro

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
- Romans 8:18-25

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Myers
- Jerry McKey

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Mike Batot
- Proverbs 20:27-30

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker (last song: Denzil Myers)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Marvin Brown
- Glen Kelly

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	86	80	85	125
A.M. Worship	157	135	145	210
P.M. Worship	75	75	78	112
Wed. Class	79	77	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	21	18	22	35
Contribution	\$5045	\$4811	\$5499	\$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