

**September 7, 2010**

## **SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**September 12, 2010**

a.m. *"I Believe Therefore I Speak"*

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

p.m. *"Trusting, Inextinguishable"*

Scripture: Job 13:13-19

### **Patience**

Don Hatch

**It is obvious from the Scriptures** that God will ultimately vindicate the church. No matter what the world may do to the church God promises a great day is coming (2 Thes 1:3-11; 2 Tim 4:1-5). The church needs to cling to the promises of God. Many want to hasten the day of retribution and clamor for swift violent action. Historically many have sought revolution against foes telling others that God would arise and come to their aid. Inciting such an expedition is always preceded by those leading it saying they know the mind of God (Rom 12:9-21; Heb 10:26-31). **God will come**, He has a determined time schedule! No man knows when, for it is within God's power. Hence, hasty forays into such rebellion can be catastrophic. In Jesus' parable of the kingdom he presents the patience that a Christian must display (Mk 4:26-29). This parable teaches the Christian to patiently wait for God's plan to unfold. He will come and dispatch the sickle as the harvest comes.

**To all who are in a hurry** and want quick results Jesus reminds them that the seed and growing season is regulated by God. Many want power that they might make others cringe with fear. They want God to establish a physical kingdom so that they might force others to become Christians. This is odd! Obedience to God is never forced. Obedience comes from faith and faith comes from hearing God (Rom 10:1-17). Those who want a worldwide kingdom of God, which has a standing army, miss the point of the gospel. Mastery of others has never been Christianity. There have been wars in the name of Christianity with catastrophic results. If money, power and force are the blessing some seek they make the kingdom physical. Such is not the case. The time for God's vindication is unknown.

**The parable manifests** that the Church remain faithful and plant the seed. Placing the cause of Christianity on a "high pinnacle and casting it down" saying, God will send angels to help lest haply the task come to a terrible end. Jesus demonstrated that one does not make trial of God, or seek to force Him into action (Mat 4:5-7). Material advantage is not what makes individuals follow Jesus. Man does not live by bread alone, but every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Premillennialism is not the Christian end of Time Theology. Jesus will not literally and physically return to earth reigning with an army to force men to obey. Jesus is already King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:16). The premillennialism eschatology is false.

Premillennialism is largely based upon a false interpretation of Revelation 20:1-6. It views this future age as a time of fulfillment for the prophetic hope of God's people. Such an interpretation views the symbolism of Revelation as referring to a visible battle on earth. Such could not be further from the truth.

**Quick results** unleash a few startling spurts of growth. Jesus wants the church to be engaged for the long haul. Christianity cannot compromise with evil for a moment. It cannot bend or waver. Give into the worldly ways, popular sentiment, strike a bargain with the Devil and you are owned by him. Right is right and wrong is wrong and there is no compromise. Gradual growth of the kingdom is obvious. Christianity is like a leaven. It will leaven the whole lump. Another illustration is that if we plant and water God will give the increase. Results rarely come quickly, rather gradually and certain. In the time of discouragement these parables should be read.

**God set in order** His laws of growth. No man can make anything grow. Scientists can make a synthetic seed. If the seed is analyzed it will have all the elements of the natural seed but it is different! It will not grow! There are certain things about the kingdom of God that only God can do. In the final analysis it is not man who brings about growth. Man must patiently plan and wait. God will give the increase when we do our part. The danger of overstressing this is that the church becomes complacent and indifferent. The church must free herself from all thoughts of quantities and qualitative thinking, imaginary statistic rational and plant the seed. All the obvious consequences of the Christian order will take place. The Word of God changes this world into a better place. Salvation is dependent upon the elementary factors of sowing, growth and harvest. Christians can see to it that conditions exist which gives the seed a chance to grow. Patience does not equate with procrastination. Nothing absolves the need to seek to produce conditions favorable for the seed to grow. A local congregation with Bible classes, worshiping in spirit and truth has effective means to produce growth.

**Christians have confidence** that what happens is not viewed by God with disinterest. Uzzah stretched out his hand to stay the ark. He was stricken dead. This serves as a warning to all who feel an urge to irreligiously take God's place in His plan. This parable teaches the Christian to watch a small tree growing in concrete and see it eventually move even the greatest of obstacles.

**The paradox is that it is possible** to offer mankind the freedom from sin and they do not see its worth. The process of trusting in God takes patience. "Lean not upon thine own understanding" is still valid (Prov 3:5). It is devotion that prompts the Christian. Christianity is distinctively different from all other religions. The harvest will come! Man's reaction to the Gospel will be judged. Christian's labor in the field will be rewarded. Be patient! Serve God! Plant, water and God will give the increase.

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

It has been said that forgiveness is a prerequisite to the abundant life. We all want to be forgiven if we do something wrong. As children we learn this very early in life. Forgiveness is a beautiful thing. I would like to share some additional thoughts about forgiveness as we journey through life.

Forgiveness is one thing we cannot receive unless we are willing to give it to others. “. . . *bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do*” Col. 3:13. We must learn to forgive because Christ did forgive us. This is our ultimate example we have to follow, Jesus Christ. We must learn to give it to others as Christ gave it to us.

Forgiveness that forgets enables one to put behind him all wrongs he has suffered from others and thus find a new life. This was true of Joseph who suffered the meanest treacheries and cruelest injustices at the hands of envious brothers who sold him into slavery. They sold only his body—they could not sell his spirit. Joseph found the abundant life in forgiveness and forgetfulness; and it can never be found apart from this Christ-like bigness of heart.

Forgiveness is a matter of mercy rather than justice. A mother who knew this sought the pardon of her son from Napoleon. The emperor said it was his second offense, and justice demanded his death. The mother replied, “I don’t ask for justice; I plead for mercy.” “But,” said the emperor, “he does not deserve mercy.” The mother cried, “Sir, it would not be mercy, if he deserved it, and mercy is all I ask for.” “Well, then,” said Napoleon, “I will have mercy and pardon your son.” And he did.

We, too, need mercy—not justice—and, hence, we cry out, “*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions*” Psa. 51:1. In our effort to develop bigness of character, let us not forget that God “*shall execute judgment without mercy, to those that hath shown no mercy*” James 2:13.

May we be a forgiving and merciful people and never forget how to forgive others.

~ Jerry McKey

“Be patient therefore, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient over it, until it receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord is at hand. Murmur not, brethren, one against another, that ye be not judged: behold, the judge standeth before the doors. Take, brethren, for an example of suffering and of patience, the prophets who spake in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call them blessed that endured: ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord, how that the Lord is full of pity, and merciful” (Jas 5:7-11).

### **IF MAN DIE, SHALL HE LIVE AGAIN?**

“**If a man die, shall he live again**” (Job 14:14)? This question was propounded mililleums ago. Job, the patriarch, in the midst of his afflictions, wanted to know about his destiny. This question has haunted every race and nationality of mankind. Recognizing the brevity of life, the passing and transitory nature of mankind, men have wondered if there is life beyond the grave. In being true to their best instincts most of mankind finds it exceedingly difficult to believe that there is no existence beyond the grave.

“**If a man die, will he live again**”? This is answered affirmatively with the triumphant joy of the early Christians. We can share in this hope and joy. **There is one who knows the Way, the Truth and the Life.** He is the Saviour, Jesus Christ. “**God’s Plans For Mankind**” is the evidence of God’s love for mankind and what He did to assured us we can have life eternally (Jn 14:1-5; 1 Jn 5:18; 1 Thes 4:13-18).

“**If a man die, will he live again**” was the theme for our **Summer Series of Gospel Preaching**. It has come to a successful conclusion. Answers to great questions were supplied by faithful Gospel Preachers. Lessons were taught as follows: Brother Perry Cotham “**Is There A God**”; Kevin Rhodes “**What Is Man**”; Don Hatch; “**How Does Death Affect Mankind**”; Richard Steven III “**What Is Death**”; Jeff Jenkins “**Is Death An Annihilation**”? Neal Thurman “**After Death What Then**”; Dan Flournoy “**Can The Living Communicate With The Dead**”; Bill Burk “**Is Christ The Answer**”; Ken Hope “**Is The Church Of Christ The Answer**”; Ed McGeachy “**Will Christ Come Again**”; Gary Fallis “**Will There Be A Judgment**” and Henry Seidmeyer “**Is There Eternal Punishment**”?

**In true religion** there is the love of God and fellowship that He provides in life and beyond. **In true religion** man is bound to God in fellowship: spirit meets Spirit and mankind responds to the love of God. This is not a fable. The Bible history of Enoch, Abraham, Moses and Elijah are all verifiable proofs of life after the physical life. To say that there is no life after death is **to deny** that God loves us, which is unthinkable. It is entirely inconsistent that God would love us with an everlasting love and then have it end at the grave. He solicits our love and fellowship. Is it possible that He would cast us off as just so much rubbish? God declares that when we are faithful nothing can snatch us from His love, not even death, powers, principalities, things present, things to come, or any other creature. We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us (Rom 8:31-39).

The **Summer Series** was a time of **reflection** on the story of Jesus and His love and **introspection**. I am sure we were all encouraged by life that now is prepares us for the eternal life that will be. We are grateful for our speakers and the good attendance we had each Wednesday evening. Our elders are to be commended for seeing that good spiritual food is provided. A timely subject, "The Destiny Of Man", unmasked false teachings by setting forth timeless truths from the Bible. The Gospel [Good News] is a wonderful message to mankind about the love of God manifested in Christ Jesus, our Lord. God put a high value on human life and so should we. Be faithful unto the end (Rev 2:10). Don Hatch

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Sunday, September 12, 2010**

**Front foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

**Back foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor

#### **Sunday, September 19, 2010**

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

**Back foyer:** Bill & Linda Matthews

## **Family News:**

### **MISSION PRINTING**

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium.

### **SINGING SESSION**

The singing class will resume on **September 12<sup>th</sup>** 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' class will resume on **September 14<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 with a lesson by Bill Matthews on "All That Glitters Is Not Gold", followed by a luncheon.

The Keller Church of Christ is hosting their annual Intreat on Saturday, **September 11<sup>th</sup>** from 9am-noon.

### BEAR PROGRAM

Ladies, if you are interested in participating in the Bear Program, please sign the list that can be found in both foyers.

### GLEENING FOR CHILDREN

Please bring your green cans of pocket change for the children of Foster's Home to the building as they will be here in a couple of weeks to pick them up.

### NEW CLASS

Henry Seidmeyer has resumed regular Bible study in the main auditorium on Wednesday evenings in the book of 1 Peter.

### CONGRATULATIONS

**Phoebe Latham** made perfect attendance again in the summer quarter of Bible class, which makes a great record of not missing 52 weeks in a row!

### THANK YOU

I want to thank all those who took my assignments while Joann & I were on vacation. I am indebted to Jerry McKey & Henry Seidmeyer for their preaching, Mike Batot & Garl Latham for their classes, and Darrell Allen & Garl Latham for taking charge of the Fifth Sunday Singing. They did a great job & I appreciate them very much. Don Hatch

### LUBBOCK LECTURESHIP

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Lubbock Lectureship will be October 10-13, 2010. The theme is "Walking in the Light". Everyone who attends will be spiritually blessed & strengthened in the faith. The books produced are timeless & valuable for personal study. The lectureship is located at the Southside Church of Christ; see the advertisement on the back bulletin board.

### RESPONSE

**Brent & Samantha Howard** responded Wednesday evening & asked to be restored & to place membership with us; their address is 2617 Quail Valley; Irving, 75060.

**Beverly Sweat** came forward last Sunday evening requesting prayers.

### WITH SYMPATHY

**Shirley Bryant** (James Gilliam's sister) passed away in Ardmore, OK.

**Bill Ferguson** (former elder) lost his brother last week.

### **NEWS OF THE SICK**

- **Billie Beverly** is scheduled for back surgery on 9/14 at Baylor/Irving.
- **Brenda Bryant** fell & dislocated her elbow & has bone chips.
- **Grady Fowler** will have surgery in Plano on 9/17.
- **Don Hancock** requests prayers.
- **Judy Hancock** is now under hospice care, but not to the point of a 24-hour need.
- **Geraldean Jones** came through pacemaker surgery well and is now home.
- **Everett Newton** was in Baylor/Dallas, but was to go home Sat.
- **Nola Wolfe** is suffering with additional health problems.
- **LeRoy Bufe** (frequent visitor) had surgery last week in McKinney.
- **C.D. Hancock** (Don's dad) is on 24-hour hospice care.
- **Tom Head** is now home.
- **Gail Hieronymus** (Mike Garrison's daughter) is scheduled for surgery on 9/9 for cancer which is more serious than first diagnosed.
- **Faye Trent** (Beverly McKey's aunt) underwent neurosurgery last week at Baylor/Dallas.

### **CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:**

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Faye West, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- September 12: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- September 12: Singing class in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- September 14: Ladies' Bible Class at 11:00 a.m. followed by lunch

**LORD'S TABLE/MORNING****Front Table**

·Purman Cofer  
 ·Bill Matthews  
 ·John Mayer  
 ·Glen Kelly  
 ·Brandon Howard  
 · Marvin Brown  
 · Mike Garrison  
 ·Dorris Walker

**Rear Table**

·JC Ross  
 ·Robert Taylor  
 ·Max Melton  
 ·Keith Vaughn  
 ·Derrol Allen  
 ·Bill Paschall  
 ·Roy Martin  
 ·Bobby England

**SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

·Jerry McKey  
 ·Mike Batot  
 ·Denzil Myers

**A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

·Darrell Allen  
 2 Corinthians 4:7-15

**A.M. SONG LEADER**

· Garl Latham

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

· Glen Kelly  
 · Marvin Brown

**P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

· Nathan Allen  
 Job 13:13-19

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

· Jerry Baker

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

· Robert Ruckman  
 · Thomas Rathbun

**COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS**

· Garl Latham

**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	88	93	84	125
A.M. Worship	152	157	148	210
P.M. Worship	87	90	78	112
Wed. Class	92	71	79	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	30
Contribution	\$4422	\$7379	\$5332	\$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 – Stephenville, TX  
Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India  
Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching  
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