

March 8, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

March 14, 2010

a.m. "*When They Had Sung a Hymn*"

Scripture: Mark 14:32-42

p.m. "*A Still, Small Voice*"

Scripture: 1 Kings 10:9-14

I Believe The Bible

Don Hatch

If the Scriptures are a mangled tissue of half truths, falsehood, merely containing some of the mind of God one could not believe it. **But I do believe it.** To anyone who is reasonably willing to investigate the Bible they will find its trustworthiness for this is the historic faith of Christianity. There would be no Christianity if there was no Bible; Christianity did not give us the Bible the Bible gave us Christianity. The doubters and naysayers have made such a loud outcry that many believers might feel like Elijah "...they have forsaken thy covenant and thrown down thine altars; and I even I only am left" (1 Kg 19:10). The battle is not won by the wailing voices of descent, but by triumphant songs of praise and not bending the knee to Baal. The Truth of Righteousness is certain to have its victory even in the darkest annals of human history.

The great thing about being conservative is that there is always an active spirit of defense (Phil 1:16). Truth is never a stagnant reservoir, but a stream of living water with enormous power. It moved the world and can do it again. It gives an answer to all that ask of its faith. Faith is based upon the fact that the Bible is verified. It claims to be inspired. It leaves no doubt that God breathed out His word (Greek theonopneustia- thopneustia). God gave to humans the privilege of writing His mind in human languages upon a series of materials to create a volume of divine inerrant truth. It is unthinkable that God would "breathe" a lie (Heb 6:13-20). No prophecy came by the will of man but holy men of God were moved [borne forward] by the Holy Spirit of God to speak and write (2 Pet 1:21). The sacred writers were more than "amanuenses". While free to use their own words and mental processes they were "borne forward" by the Holy Spirit as a safeguard against any errors and into clear statements of the truth, precisely as God wanted it written. This singular claim makes all Scripture inspired (2 Tim 3:16). There was no picking and choosing among the writers in an *a la carte* fashion, wherein likes and dislikes were the dominate means of choosing what was to be written. The scriptures are for correction, reproof, instruction in righteousness and profitable to thoroughly furnish unto all good works. It is clearly demonstrated that the Old Testament and New Testament are so coordinated as to create and sustain faith (2 Tim 1:3-7; 3:15-17; Rom 1:16,

17). The “spirit of the age” must never be stronger than the Bible, Christianity and faithfulness. Why should we be broken loose from our moorings and swept into a state of confusion. We have an anchor of the soul that is steadfast and sure (Heb 6:19). We must be convinced that Christianity was not started by those of cunning lies and deceit. The ancient landmarks must not be removed. To abandon them would be to be without the anchor, adrift upon the sea of time.

The unfathomable unity of the Bible makes any argument made by doubters seem like a howling wind. The sixty six books of the Bible, written on various subjects, in various languages, at different times and on subjects that were challenged in the time of their writing represent an unusual rule of faith and practice. The Old Testament is an essential and inseparable part of the New Testament. Between the Old and New there is perfect agreement on God, man, sin, heaven and all other subjects. No volume written by mere men has accomplished such amazing unity. No connection between both volumes is coherent or consecutive without a view of redemption and plan of salvation forthrightly given. The New Testament is woven into the wrap and fabric of the Old Testament. The New Testament is enclosed in the Old Testament and the Old unfolded in the New. Neither can be understood without the revelation of God’s Son, sacrifice for sin and the church wherein the redeemed are placed following their salvation. The “tutor” brought the church to faith in Christ (Gal 3:24-20). The New Testament repeatedly demonstrates its indebtedness to the Old. Countless quotes are made, allusions are frequent and the New Testament writers use the Old Testament as the basis for “The Faith”. As there is only one God, so there is only one Bible. From Genesis to Revelation is found the mind of God. The book is intended to touch every aspect of life in its circumference and fittingly guides the soul homeward to a heavenly resort (Rev 21:9-27; Heb 11:13-16).

The Scriptures are supremely important and a study of them is the nexus [link] of the divine plan of salvation. Omit faith in the fact that God communicated His divine plan in human language, without error and there is no faith in Christianity. The cross of Calvary is the golden key which opens salvation for Jew, Gentile, male, female, bond or free (Gal 3:25-29; Col 3:11). We see unity in the Bible’s various parts and profitability to the soul of man in all its parts. All Scriptures have contributed to the far-reaching purpose of God in redemption and the building up of man unto the measure of the fullness of God. The Bible is a comprehensive summary of all spiritual truths and necessary to our temporal and spiritual well-being. The church must abide in the things that they have learned and have been assured of, knowing from whom they have learned them. Just as there is no new force in the material universe and no adjustments required, so it is that we do not need new principles in the spiritual province. The Bible was closed and finally sealed long centuries ago, divinely established for all succeeding generations. Believe the Bible and practice its principles to find peace.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Marvin Weir of Rowlett Texas wrote an article entitled “The Old-Fashioned Gospel. I would like to share it with you.

“It was not long ago that a visitor commented that we were “old-fashioned” in the way we approached our worship. I took the remark as a compliment even though further conversation proved it was not meant as such. The “new is better” philosophy is alive and well in the religious world, and more and more those who profess to be members of the Lord’s church are

subscribing to this view. At least this person knew an “old-fashioned Gospel” and an “old fashioned order of worship” existed! A generation is now arising that will never have been exposed to the “old-fashioned Gospel.”

In the worldly realm, innovations may be needed and helpful. There may be a “better way” of doing certain things. But such is not true with Christianity and the Lord’s church. There is only one church (Ephesians 4:4; 1:22-23), one Gospel (Galatians 1:6-7), and one power to save souls (Romans 1:16). God’s Word is authoritative and complete (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and “settled in heaven” (Psalms 119:89). If one is saved he will be saved the “old-fashioned way”!

I pray that everyone will have a great week and as Richard said Sunday morning after services please keep all of our sick in your prayers.

~ Jerry McKey

“Be ye therefore imitators of God, as beloved children; and walk in love, even as Christ also loved you, and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for an odor of a sweet smell. But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be named among you, as becometh saints; nor filthiness, nor foolish talking, or jesting, which are not befitting: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know of a surety, that no fornicator, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them; For ye were once darkness, but are now light in the Lord: walk as children of light (for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), proving what is well-pleasing unto the Lord; and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather even reprove them; for the things which are done by them in secret it is a shame even to speak of. But all things when they are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for everything that is made manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead and Christ shall shine upon thee” (Eph 5:1-15).

True Blessings and Joy

“Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice. Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you” (Phil 4:4-9).

There are true blessings found in allowing joy to reign within the life of a Christian. It is evident that circumstances alone do not determine the condition of the heart and mind. A Christian can be joyful within, when without all seems dark and dreary. Rejoicing in the Lord is because of Christ’s oneness with the church. This is reasonable, for in and through Christ all things, even those unfavorable ones, work together for good (Rom 8:27). Paul exhorts the church at

Philippi to cultivate a disposition of joy that cannot be shaken. This can be done by meditation on proper subjects and taking into account the things that should stand out as true and certain blessings from the almighty hand of God. Joy and peace are unspeakable blessings which give a saved individual the hope of coming glory. God will cause all things to eventually work together for the good of a Christian. The practical lesson is that an individual cannot obtain true blessings when he rigorously insists on whatever he regards as his just due, demanding that it be given on his timetable. Prayers and supplications of the redeemed coupled with thanksgiving are a starting point for careful planning and reflection on the actions which must be taken to find tranquility in life. Reflection and action without prayer would be futile. Christians are to cast their anxieties on Lord and He will care for them (1 Pet 5:7). The outpouring of the heart must not be restricted.

The song "Sweet Hour of Prayer" is a good reminder of how one pours out the heart. "Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! That calls me from a world of care, and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known. In seasons of distress and grief, my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! The joys I feel, the bliss I share, of those whose anxious spirits burn with strong desires for thy return! With such I hasten to the place where God my Savior shows His face, and gladly take my station there, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! Thy wings shall my petition bear to Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless. And since He bids me seek His face, believe His word and trust His grace, I'll cast on Him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer!" ([William W. Walford](#))

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, March 14, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, March 21, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

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 not meet on March 16th due to Spring Break; we'll resume on March 23rd.

39'er BREAKFAST

We had a great turnout for the breakfast Saturday & are so grateful for our teens & those who work with them. Thank you so much for your hard work & for a lovely time; you are such a blessing to us!

SPRING FORWARD

Don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour next Sunday, **March 14th**.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are so proud of **Alyssa Price & Tandy Garrett** who have both memorized all of the books of the Bible. Way to go, girls!

THANK YOU

Once again, I have been blessed by the love of so many in my church family here at Belt Line. The phone calls, cards, & concerns have been just a sample of the love shared. So thankful for the constant prayers. My love & God's blessings to all! Ilene Ashworth

We would like to thank all of our Christian family for the cards, visits, & calls while I was in the hospital. Always, Linda & Tom Head

Dear Belt Line church family, thank you so much for your prayers, calls, cards & concern for Ann during her recent health issues & passing. She set a wonderful example for us all & was grateful for your encouragement. The family would like to thank you for the years of love you showed her, the effort given to host her funeral & the food that was provided afterwards. You are always there for my family & me and I am so blessed to have you all in my life. Thank you, the Ann Ryon family & Mike Batot

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Evelyn Armstrong** was able to be in worship yesterday.
- Erma Lee Baker** has moved back to Northgate Plaza, room #401.
- Billie Beverly's** back surgery was cancelled again due to high blood pressure; it will be rescheduled.

- Billie Gilliam** is in Baylor/Irving, room #301 after a fall; she broke her hip & leg & had surgery last Wednesday.
- Megan Little** will undergo surgery on March 16th at Harris Methodist in Southlake.
- Lyda McAlister** is back in Baylor/Irving, room #310 in isolation; no visitors at this time, please.
- Everett Newton** was able to be in worship last evening.
- Billie Prince** was treated & released at Baylor/Grapevine for bronchitis.
- Tom Prince** was released from the hospital yesterday.
- Joy Webb** was also in worship yesterday.
- Brenda Alsup** (Lotah Franklin's friend) has many health problems.
- Minnie Edwards** (former member) suffered a heart attack & has endured surgery.
- The father of **Lloyd Jones** (frequent visitor) is suffering with cancer.
- Garren Porter** (Marcella's nephew) requests prayers.
- Johnnie Williams** underwent more surgery last week.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Mike Garrison, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- March 14: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- March 14: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- March 16: Ladies' Bible class at 9:30 a.m.
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Scott Price
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Jerry Baker
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Brandon Howard
- Mike Garrison

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Mike Batot
- Darrell Allen

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Glen Kelly
- Mark 14:32-42

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Matthews
- Dean Webb

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Marvin Brown
- 1 Kings 10:9-14

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Jerry Baker

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Darrell Allen

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	84	83	85	125
A.M. Worship	162	150	147	210
P.M. Worship	72	76	77	112
Wed. Class	73	76	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	22	35
Contribution	\$6036	\$5266	\$5559	\$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