

January 12, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

January 18, 2009

a.m. "*Faith in a Falsehood*"

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

p.m. "*Consequences of Fear*"

Scripture: 2 Timothy 1:3-14

Temperance-Application Of God's Will

Don Hatch

The application of judgment in matters of moral values is of supreme importance. The mental processes of thinking clearly through choices and the merits of options imply that it is routinely wise to evaluate actions. Note that all of life is affected by the choices of lifestyle and religious affiliations.

Cognitive judgment formally evaluates the status of one's life and the outcome of choices being made. Choices set the conditions for a satisfactory outcome or harmful events which lead to destruction. Choices lead to comfort or unsatisfactory alternatives where moral control is lost. Unlimited alternatives are constructed around choices. Hence, choosing well which path one will tread cannot be underestimated (Josh 24:14, 15; Matt 7:13, 14).

Virtue is the ability to discern what actions will best benefit the life being lived for Christ. Appropriate actions, given time, will perform to distinguish between recklessness and prudent choices. The pivotal means for reasoning is thinking before acting. Prudence should be applied to tasks large or small. Weighing all issues upon redemptive values prevents repetitive regrets. Prudence forms virtues which perfect outstanding ways for achieving abilities to discern right from wrong (Heb 5:11-14).

Correct actions administered early in life lead to a sustainable lifestyle later. Measuring moral virtues with the model of godly actions of biblical characters is a good background from which to regulate daily practices. Patterns of men and women of faith who made wise choices are multidimensional reviews wherein benefits are found in fashioning lives after worthy examples (Rom 15:1-13; 1 Cor 10:1-13). Virtue builds fortitude for the present and the future. The outcome of good is calculated against the early choices in life. The inner essence of life is formed around good and honest choices. The Christian understands that cunning lies and the intention to deceive are against the moral laws of God. Rather than deny the faith Christians have been martyred. Pretending to deny the faith for the sake of life was a loathsome and irresponsible action.

Prudent judgment is the circumstance where actions are weighed with eternal consequences considered. Questions of great consequences must be settled and faced with resolute determination. The benefit to the inner man remains the only true test (2 Cor 4:16-18; 1 Pet 1:13-25). Moral guidelines are not self-serving, but rather mean to know of how a just person must live to bring glory to God. Prudence, self-control, restraint and courage are mainstays which afford the Christian the ability to live a life of holiness. Just people have deep-seeded moral and spiritual equilibrium that makes them different from others. To regulate life from God's vantage point is pivotal and deemed the most important virtue a Christian can establish. Influencing the mind to unhesitatingly develop love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control fortifies it against the works of the flesh like fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousies, wraths, factions, divisions, parties, envying, drunkenness, revellings and such like (Gal 5:16-24). The spiritual life gives itself entirely to justice which forsakes all that will hinder serving God.

Being just, temperate and having fortitude to distinguish between right and wrong is what makes a Christian society. The converse of being intemperate, unjust and lacking moral fortitude destroys societies. Justice renders to others what is due them under moral and holy guidelines. What some call entitlements are never the basis of love, honor and concern. As opportunities arise Christians do good unto all men and especially the house of faith (Gal 6:1-10). Love is deemed the pivotal virtue which Christians excel in (1 Jn 4:7-21).

The courage of one's convictions is bravery not to be intimidated by what men can do because the Lord is the Christians' helper (Heb 13:6; Deut 31:6). A familiar maxim is that the Christian is neither self-righteous in their attitude nor superficial in their self-control. They cautiously and responsibly evaluate all actions in light of the scriptures. Obedience to the Lord is foremost and they judge according to righteous judgments (Jn 7:24). Christianity repudiates that which is evil. The scriptures are used as final authority in all matters of judgment. They are used to discern the difference between truth and error. A comparable statement is found in the words of our Lord, who said a good tree brings forth good fruit, the evil brings forth corrupt fruit (Mat 7:18-20). It takes courage, will, intrepidity and fortitude to act righteously, soberly and godly while denying ungodliness, worldly lust and all appearance of evil (Tit 2:1-14; 1 Thes 5:22). Having the mind of Christ is paramount and taking thought to do that which is honorable in the sight of all men is possible if we set our aspirations on the things which are holy and noble (Rom 12:9-21). Temperance is governing one's life according to the values of God. No virtue can be sustained in the face of an inability to control one's self. Abstinence, charity, modesty and all other values are sustained by the ability to accept the things which we cannot change, having the courage to change the things we can and having the wisdom to trust in God to define the difference. Temperance is not a movement, but rather the application of God's will in one's life.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Influence! We all have it whether be good or bad. I would like to share with you some things a Christian must know and practice to exert a good influence in our community. If we practice them, they will make us a better person.

As a Christian, we must live our religion and practice what we profess. A man who operated a service station would not close it on Sundays. One Sunday he tried to talk to one of his customers about the church. After listening, as the operator spoke eloquently about the church, the customer responded, "If it (the church) means so much to you, why aren't you there now?" You see, we must live what we advocate. We must practice what we preach. *"You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that a man should not steal, do you steal?"* Rom. 2:21. Yes, we must prove the profession that we are Christians by our performance.

The Christian must portray a friendly disposition. *"A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"* Prov. 18:24. Snobbishness and discourtesy are bushels that hide a Christian's influence for good. It is said, "a cold shoulder does not attract warm friends." We must portray a friendly disposition.

The Christian must refrain from neighborhood gossip (1 Tim. 5:13 & Psalm 15:3). Someone said it this way: "Gossiping (sometimes called hoof and mouth disease—hoofing it over to the neighbors and mouthing) has never built a church, (or community) but has torn many of them asunder." Recently, a non-Christian said to her Christian employer, after having watched for some time the behavior of the many Christians who patronized the business, "These people never talk about each other." This is wonderful! This is the way it should be.

Before you are three points that will affect your influence toward others and how others will view you as a Christian. May we strive to live by them each and every day of our lives.

~ Jerry McKey

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2009

WALKING WITH GOD

At a glance it can be seen that walking with God changes the way one looks at life. Culture is painfully aware that coarseness is fatal to a gentle society. The eye of an artist is distressed by colors which do not blend. High and lofty morals are wounded to see sin, shame and degeneration in the world. Love cannot abide hate. Corruption and cleanliness are necessarily unequal and where there is no law there is lawlessness. Greatness is not that which receives the approbation of God, rather it is goodness. Those who serve God are excellent in His sight because of personal purity.

"Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God" (Mat 5:8). Seeing God conditions a righteous soul to behold the purity which surrounds God. Impurity cannot see the advantage of seeking to be like God. In the spiritual world one is measured, not by gifts but by grace, not by intelligence but by a likeness to God. The world praises the clever man; the talented originator, creative inventors are unique but the man or woman who has simple purity and character is more outstanding. Some serve the world by what they are rather than what they do. Only a few men and women set high examples wherein faith is their foremost virtue. Their names never get into the newspaper but their sanctity pervades the world in which they have lived. Without holy men and women light ebbs and darkness invades. How terrible is darkness? Fellowship with Jesus assures us that we will not walk in darkness (Jn 8:12). By casting off the works of darkness we walk becomingly and make no provisions for the flesh (Rom 13:11-14). We are delivered from the power of darkness by Jesus Christ (Col 1:9-23). When we have fellowship with the Lord we walk in light (1 Jn 1:1-10).

Walking with God indicates progress. Progress is made when the spiritual life matures into a consciousness of what must be attained to have harmony with God. The conquest of the spiritual over the physical is not unlike the advancing light of the morning sun. The sun light guarantees that the darkness is doomed. The sense that God is light and we can walk with Him in light guarantees that the Prince of darkness is doomed. Walking with God means that a soul is at rest. In music there is a law that will not allow inharmonious notes. Man did not make this law and only discovered it. If he breaks this law music ceases. The ocean currents cannot be changed, nor can the tide be stopped, but ships can be built to sail and adapt to the wind and currents. Lives can be built to be more than conquerors through obedience to the laws of God. The greatest sphere of influence is being spiritual and placing complete faith in God. The full significance of a spiritual life is never realized until it is no longer an influence.

Throughout the Bible individuals walked with the Lord. Enoch walked with the Lord and at God's choice He translated him (Gen 5:22-24). Noah was a man who walked in the ways of the Lord and God used him to save himself and his family during a worldwide flood (Gen 7, 8, 9). Both Enoch and Noah were men who preached the word of the Lord. Their influence on the world was profound. Abraham walked before the Lord in righteousness (Gen 34). Hezekiah prayed that the Lord would remember that he had walked before Him in truth with a perfect heart (2 Kg 20:3). The Psalmist spoke of walking before the Lord in the land of the living (Psm 116:9). The prophet Micah said he walked with the Lord during troubling times (Mic 6:8). Micah said that the requirements were to do justice, love, mercy and walk humbly with God and give peace, uprightness and turning others away from sin as a hallmark of walking with God (Mal 2:6).

Christians have fellowship with God when they walk in the light (1 Jn 1:4-10). James, the brother of the Lord said, "Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he will exalt you" (Jas 4:10). Paul said that Christians are to walk worthily in the Lord (Col 1:10; 2:6; 4:5). Let these ideals be our goal daily in 2009.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, January 18, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor; Megan & Jamie Little

Back foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

Sunday, January 25, 2009

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

Back foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

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

OH HAPPY DAY!

Sam Lundquist was baptized here at the building last Thursday evening by his grandfather.

PHONE NUMBER

In case you didn't get this phone number change the last time it was posted, please call **Sandy Hall** at 214-499-2543.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet in the Annex on Tuesday, **January 20th** at 9:30 a.m. a lesson by Ilene Ashworth.

Mark you calendar for **Saturday, April 25th** for Ladies' ½ Day. Polly Cline will speak again; lessons: Holiness in an Unholy World; What is Holiness?; How important is it to God and me?; Holy Thine; Wholly Thine.

IN APPRECIATION

To my Belt Line Family: Thank you for the lovely flowers. I really appreciate your calls, visits, and hugs! The lunch prepared for my family was amazing. I was overwhelmed by the cards, Love, Brenda Bryant

Thank you for all your prayers, phone calls and thoughts during my surgery & recovery. Love, Dana Hodgkins

Ladies' Bible Class, thinking of your thoughtfulness with special warmth and gratitude. Love, Pansy Yankey

Ladies' Bible Class, I had a thrill when I received my bag of goodies. Thank God for helpers of Jesus Christ; I pray for all of you. I have been in pain; please pray that I get settled so I can come to worship. Bless each one of you. Marietta Houser

We wanted to thank you for your prayers, love, cards, & visits during Barbara's illness & death. In Christ always, Jody Coop & family.

To my church family, I want to thank all of you for the loving kindnesses, encouragement & prayers you have shown over the years to Amber, Curtis, & me. I truly appreciate you all so very much. I also want to thank all the Bible Class teachers who have taught Amber & Curtis.

You not only teach them the scriptures, but also to love God! My life would be so bear without you all. Much love, Mary Curtis

WITH SYMPATJY

Our sympathy goes out to the family of **Bob Bingham** as Bob passes away yesterday afternoon (1/11). Services are pending at the time of this writing.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Grady Fowler** is ill at home.
- **Judy Hancock** will undergo major dental surgery on January 19th.
- **Becky Henry** will get a 2nd opinion on Tuesday (1/13) for mammogram results.
- **Hank Henry** received 6 stitches in a head wound following a fall; he will undergo a sonogram on his heart on Wednesday (1/14).
- **Marietta Houser** has 3 blocked arteries; she's working with her doctor for treatment.
- **Mike Roses** is in Presbyterian Hospital following a motorcycle accident,
- **Mary Scott** has also been ill at home.
- **Kayla Mitchell** (Carol Swinney's granddaughter) lost a friend who passed away after being hit by a car.
- **Nell Rogers** (Carol Swinney's sister) will undergo kidney dialysis.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Gardean Latham, Tom Prince, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Todd Jonas (Charlene Carroll's grandson), Willie Lawson (Shellie Pearce's dad), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), George Ryon (Ann's son), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Crystal Vaughan (Mary Curtis' daughter), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's neighbor), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- January 18: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- January 18: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- January 20: Ladies' Bible Class in the Annex at 9:30 a.m.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Melissa Allen

Sunday evening:

- Sandy Hall

DEC. LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- John Mayer
- Ty Harvey

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
- 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Marvin Brown
- Henry Seidmeyer

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Ty Harvey
- 2 Timothy 1:3-14

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Stan Selby

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	87	105	96	125
A.M. Worship	146	172	159	210
P.M. Worship	84	102	93	112
Wed. Class	60	82	71	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	-	35
Contribution	\$6251	\$5963	\$6107	\$5474

MISSIONS

- 21st Century Global Missions
- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- 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
- 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