

April 14, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

April 20, 2008

a.m. *"One Heart and Soul"*

Scripture: Acts 4:32-35

p.m. *"Knowing Such Things"*

Scripture: Romans 5:1-11

Holiness A Standard Set By God

Don Hatch

Preparing our minds for action means to have a clear picture of how to obediently work for the King. The believers' minds are spiritually conscious of a relationship with God and actively promote His name, will and kingdom (Matt 6:9-11). Their lives are free from hindrances in order that they may serve the Lord. The mind that is self-controlled is clear and of sound judgment. This freedom from rashness and confusion rejects the temptation to be intoxicated by the pleasures of the world. Those who remain alert, self-controlled and influenced by God need no modifier. Active participation in events or activities which lead to an accumulation of righteous knowledge or skills is imperative. Setting hope on the things which are above gives a heavenly vision of an earthly life. Believers look expectantly toward the fulfillment of hope with respect to their inheritance.

Setting hope on the grace which was given is significant. Hope is because of the grace given and is equivalent to salvation and inheritance. God is the active agent in bestowing grace and peace upon the believer. Christ's work upon the cross brought favor from the Father. As obedient children the believers adhere to the ways of the Father. Christian parents in the first century trained their children to be obedient. Such is the demand God makes on His children. Obedience is expected from a child. In an idiom the Bible calls us "children of obedience" (1 Pet 1:15). This concept introduces holiness which is a gauge for obedience. Obedience and holiness are mirror images of the person loved. Prohibitions of conforming to the world are exhortations for a conduct befitting God's child.

The God who calls us sons or daughters is holy (2 Cor 6:17-18). Holiness introduces a positive aspect and informs how far light is from darkness. Christians have been called to walk and to bask in the light of God (1 Jn 1:1-10; Col 1:13). Being called out of the world Christians are an elect race, royal priesthood, a people for God's own possession showing forth the excellencies of Him who bestowed mercy and grace (1 Pet 2:9,10). God calls His people holy because He is Holy (1 Pet 1:16). This reveals the state of God's being. God's sinlessness cannot be influenced by sin or His holiness destroys sin. Christians have no confusion as to how they became holy people of God. No slackness in the task to remain holy like He is holy is tolerated. So in no small way the Christian is sacred unto God (Rom 12:1-5). Christians imitate God. Christians are not a worldly spectacle but vision of what holiness must be. The word of God demands respect and the acknowledgement of His authority renders Satan but a roar (1 Pet 5:8-11). Humbling one's self unto God is the most exalting thing a Christian can do (1 Pet 5:6).

The world has its own lifestyle and conforms unto evil desires. The New Testament repeatedly warns the Christian to reject this way and live obediently unto God. Christians must know the laws of God by placing them in their minds and writing them on their hearts (Heb 8:8-13). Christians receive the word of God with readiness of mind and know their first duty is to obey God. Prohibitions are made not to conform to the world reinforcing the warnings of how tempting the world can be. "...but like He who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living" (1 Pet 1:15). God calls His people holy because He is holy. The relationship with God through Christ is based upon belief in the calling to be holy in all manner of living. Nothing is more significant than God's holiness. Holiness is applied to the Christian and is a special injunction to expect to do all in a holy manner.

The word holy invokes awe. We call things holy recognizing the relationship that they have with God. That which is holy is dedicated to God. The Bible calls those who have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ "saints" [holy] (1 Cor 1:1, 2, 30, 31; Acts 20:32; 26:18; 1 Cor 6:11; Heb 10:10). As saints the church is called to holy living (Eph 4:22-24; Col 3:9, 10; 1 Thess 5:23, 24; 1 Jn 3:3). Thus, those who are sanctified pray "Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name" (Matt 6:9). Since we call on Him as Father we live with reverential awe of Him. The name "Father" is a timeless name for God (Psm 89:26; Jer 3:19; Mal 1:6). Jesus taught His disciples to seek an intimate relationship with God as Father (Mat 6:9; Lk 11:2). One of the most endearing terms uttered by Jesus was "Abba Father" (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6).

The Christian consciously lives in the presence of God. He knows God's eye is constantly upon him. Moreover, he knows that non-Christian are observing as well. Therefore he must be a true child of God so that those lacking virtue may reflect on the Father. The sacred relationship between God and His children is not to be dreaded but respected. The child of God has a citizenship in heaven that is prized above all earthly ties (Phil 3:20; Heb 11:9). He is a stranger in this world for a duration of time (1 Pet 2:11). As a pilgrim he seeks to please God in his daily conduct with a deepening reverence for God, His word and knows that he was bought with the price of Christ's blood (1 Pet 1:18,19). Perishable things such as silver or gold did not redeem him from an empty way of life. It was the blood of Jesus, the precious Lamb of God. Let the Christian sing of his Redeemer, of His wondrous love, the cruel cross and how He set us free from the curse. "Be ye holy in all manner of living as He is holy".

FAMILY CARE

A Message From Our Shepherds

SATISFACTION

Too often we feel like things are not progressing at a favorable rate. I don't know about you, but I believe that more can be done to further the Lord's cause. Yet it seems the more you do, the less of an impact you have. For instance, you study with people in regard to how the Holy Spirit works in men's lives today. It seems the more you get involved, the deeper their heels dig in with regard to their position of miraculous intervention. You come away with the feeling, "Was it worth it?"

Well, the answer to that question is a resounding yes! You see, you may be there only as a laborer preparing the soil, sowing the seed (Luke 8:11ff) for someone who comes along later, reaping what you have sown. In John 4:34-38, Jesus instructs His disciples in this very

principle. After coming back with physical food to sustain them, the disciples request that Jesus eat of this food. But the Master uses this as an opportune time to teach why He came to this earth. That is, to “do the will of Him who sent {Him}.” He tells them that the fields are white for harvest, meaning that someone has been doing some sowing of God’s Word, and the seed has sprouted to maturity.

In this case, Jesus means that the Baptizer and others have indeed prepared the paths well (Mark 1:2-4). They have sown the seed that requires men to repent and turn their minds toward the Christ. Now the disciples are reaping the benefits of that superb preaching. Verse 38 of the text applies just as much to us today as it did to the disciples. We are treading the ground that needs sowing; that through the efforts of our labor, someone – who may be our own progeny – may come and reap the mature harvest.

Often he who sows and he who reaps are not the same; both, however, will share in the joys of reaping. The teacher who sows, though humble, and the preacher who reaps, though talented, will share alike in the joys and the rewards of harvest.

So, don’t be disheartened if the work is not to your satisfaction; it may well be to the satisfaction of those who follow in your footsteps. Remember, your labor will culminate in men and women partaking of the “*bread of life*” (John 6:35). Thereby they will walk according to the “*light of the world*” (John 8:12). That is only possible by entering the correct “*door*” (John 10:9). This will lead to subjection to the “*good Shepherd*” (John 10:11), a result of someone’s satisfactory labor.

~ Graham Walker; works with the Church of Christ in Timaru, South Island of New Zealand

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

HEAVENLY JOURNEY

A person can go to heaven without being famous, physically beautiful, intellectual, socially elite, wealthy and other things the world feels are important.

No one can go to heaven without Jesus (Jn 14:1-5). Even before His birth an angel announced that He would be the Savior of the world (Matt 1:21). There is no other name given among men wherein there is salvation, but Jesus (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the door to eternal life (Jn 10:9). The reason Jesus Christ came into the world was to seek and save the lost (Lk 19:10).

Jesus became the offering for man’s sins (Rom 5:1-11). Jesus was the lamb to take away the sins of the world (Jn 1:29, 35). Jesus came to save sinners (1 Tim 1:15). While we await the return of Jesus, from heaven, we prepare ourselves by living faithfully (Rev 2:10). In worship Sunday learn how Christians are to live.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the April 18, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Another Look at the Lord's Supper

(1 Corinthians 11:26-29)

- * A look Inward, "A man ought to examine himself".
- * A look Outward, "You do proclaim the Lord's death.
- * A look Backward, "Do this in remembrance of me".
- * A look Forward, "Until he comes".

~Jim Martin

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, April 20, 2008

Front foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor; Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

Back foyer: Paul & Bernice Guisinger

Sunday, April 27, 2008

Front foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison; Megan & Jamie Little

Back foyer: Ilene Ashworth; Carol Swinney

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

39ers

The 39ers will meet next **Monday, April 21st** at 6:30 p.m. for food & fellowship. Charlie Hodge will be our guest speaker; bring your favorite dish & join us!

WORK DAY

Don't forget that the Teens are planning a work day for this **Saturday, April 19th**. Please call Darrell, John, or Ty if you have chores to be added to the list.

RESPONSE

Sandy Hall responded to the Lord's invitation yesterday for renewed strength & courage.

LADIES

The final Ladies' Bible Class of the season will meet **Tuesday, April 22nd** at 11:00 a.m. for a lesson by Brother Don and a luncheon to follow.

We are all excited as the time nears for our Ladies' ½ Day. Much work has been done by many and you are so appreciated! As we finalize working the plan, it is important that all of us sign up for the kind of salad we will be bringing for the luncheon. The lists are in the front foyer. Also, it is time to reach out to our friends and loved ones. Invitations, to be mailed or handed out, are also in the foyer. All ladies are encouraged to **Plan, Pray & Participate!**

WITH SYMPATHY

Bob Dodson (former elder) passed away Tuesday evening; services & interment were held at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas on Saturday.

PRAYER CONCERNS

√**Bob Bingham** got a good report from his test on Friday.

√**Charlene Carroll** had successful foot surgery on Thursday (4/10).

√**Janice Daniel** fell & broke her shoulder.

√**Jean Haddock** is in Zale Lipshy, room #309 following a fall.

√**Lyda McAlister** has been suffering with an inner ear infection.

√**Georgia Meyer** is in Baylor/Irving, Neo-ICU #13 in serious condition.

√**Billie Prince** is in Baylor/Irving, room #360 with leg & back pain.

√**Maxine Prude** got a bad report from recent tests.

√**Tom Head** (Linda's husband) will undergo cataract surgery on Wednesday (4/16).

√**Wanda Colson** (former member Bonnie Stare's mother) fell & broke some bones; she is in Ashford Hall for rehab.

√**Lewis Porter** underwent successful surgery last Thursday.

√**Donna Ruth** (Joann Hatch's sister) has been released from the hospital.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Judy Hancock, Gardean Latham, Frances & Jack LaFerney, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Shirley Bryant (James Gilliam's sister), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Elizabeth Oliver (Becky Henry's sister), Nell Rogers (Carol Swinney's sister), Kent Smith (Beverly McKey's cousin), Earl Scott (Mary Scott's son), Nita Spencer (the Webb's niece), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Allen Taylor (the Taylor's grandson), Lewis Tomlinson (Nelda Bell Newton's son), Larry Toye, & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Apr 19 – Teen Work Day
- Apr 22 – Ladies' Class & luncheon in the Annex at 11 a.m. in the Annex
- Apr 26 – Ladies' ½ Day
- June – Summer Youth Series
- June 4-Aug 27 – Wed. Night Summer Series
- June 16 thru 18 – Vacation Bible School
- July – Cisco Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Jamie Little

Sunday evening:

- Melissa Allen

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- James Gilliam
- John Mayer
- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Batot
- Bill Matthews
- Thomas Rathbun
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Darrell Allen
- Max Melton

SCRIPTURE READING

- Rob Farmer
- Acts 4:32-35

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Bill Matthews
- Denzil Myers

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Bill Paschall

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

| | <u>Last Week</u> | <u>This Week</u> | <u>YTD Avg.</u> | <u>Goal</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sun. Class | 95 | 100 | 96 | 125 |
| A.M. Worship | 171 | 176 | 170 | 210 |
| P.M. Worship | 83 | 101 | 92 | 112 |
| Wed. Class | 98 | 90 | 93 | 110 |
| Ladies Bible Class | 22 | 25 | 28 | 35 |
| Contribution | \$7320 | \$4713 | \$5497 | \$5400 |

MISSIONS

21st 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