

November 8, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

November 14, 2010

a.m. "*Eternally the Lord's*"

Scripture: Romans 14:7-12

p.m. "*Growth in the Lord*"

Scripture: 2 Peter 3:14-18

Jesus Christ-Died To Save Mankind

Don Hatch

The influence of Jesus Christ upon the world is profound. His life was amazingly simple and yet complex. Untold lessons can be drawn from His teachings and life. There is great fascination with Jesus and how He was willing to completely trust in God the Father, even unto dying upon the cross of Calvary. Untold **relics** like crosses on mountains, in buildings, worn as jewelry and in the yards of homes are means by which some have connected themselves with Jesus' death. Books, movies, programs of all sorts portray the death of Jesus Christ. The pre-crucifixion beating and whipping, as a run up to the hours on the cross, were often enough to destroy an individual. Lacerations from His whipping and beating were indescribable. Literature and art have invested enormous time and energy into depicting the death of Christ. Yet, with all of this none really know what it looked like. The best they can do is surmise. Death on a cross is a horrible event; there is nothing beautiful about it. The anguish of the one being crucified, and those who watched, testify to the inexpressible horror of it. Jesus was lifted up between God and man to draw all mankind unto Himself (Jn 12:30-33).

Jesus was the archetypical of salvation. Moses lifted up a brass serpent in the wilderness and those who looked upon it were saved from the deadly sting of the "fiery serpents" (Num 21:9). Jesus' death upon the cross was to have the same outcome on sin. Jesus predicted that individuals would be drawn to the cross and salvation associated with it. The age long attraction of Jesus dying on the cross manifests the quenching of the soul's deep need which Jesus supplied. His death brought to mankind the hope of all the ages. Jesus came to die for a certain reason. He was the "Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world" (Jn 1:29, 36). Prophecies of Jesus life and death are found in the Old Testament. Jesus would be cut off from the land of the living for mans' sake. Betrayal and denial by friends crown His anguish. Jewish leaders compounded the disgusting circumstance with a mock trial and false witnesses. The vile conditions which invaded the life of Jesus Christ were a wretchedness never before seen upon the earth. Humiliation was endured as they stripped him of His only worldly possession. They took his robe and cast lots for it. Terrible bodily sufferings were intensified as Jesus was nailed to the old wooden cross (Isa 53). The nails tore at His flesh. His thirst intensified until He cried out "I thirst". Dehydration and pain began to collapse His cardio-vascular system. The details only grow more gruesome with each event. **His bones ached, but were never broken.** As the "Lamb of God" His bones could not be broken (Psm

34:20; Jn 19:36). The "Servant" of God and man was dying to set the captive free (Rom 3:23; 6:23). The Messiah was substituting His life for sinful mankind (Rom 5:1-11; 1 Cor 15:3). He was bearing the sins and suffering of all. Pledges and promises of God to redeem mankind were being fulfilled on that Friday so many years ago. Many prophecies of Jesus were fulfilled in His death and resurrection. Calvary was a unique time in human history. The last dispensation was established (Heb 3). God bore witness that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was His Son with a supernatural darkness that enveloped the land. For three hours there was darkness as He hung on the cross, reminding of the three day plague of darkness in Egypt. No history of an eclipse has been recorded. It was God's divine manifestation. An earthquake shook the area. It is noted that there were earthquakes in that part of the world, but why on that day and at that time? The tombs of the righteous were opened and the temple veil was rent from top to bottom [unusual direction of rending]. The Holy of Holies was opened and Israel's covenant with God was fulfilled (Mat 5:18-20). All which the Prophets, Psalms and Law predicted about Jesus was completed. Jesus opened a new way unto God (Heb 10:19-12). Jesus died exactly as it says He died. He bowed His head and gave up His spirit, commending it into the hands of His Father (Jn 19:25-30; Lk 23:40-47). *No man can simply decide to die.* Jews and Romans thought they had killed Jesus. They had no power against Jesus except that which was given (Jn 19:8-12). Of His own will Jesus "*gave up the spirit*". When every last part of God's plan was accomplished Jesus dismissed His spirit from His body and commended it unto the Father.

The death and resurrection are central to the Gospel's account of Jesus' life (1 Cor 15:1-10). It is obviously of vital importance that mankind knows Jesus died, was buried and rose on the third day. On the morning of His resurrection angels were there to announce to His disciples that they were seeking the living among the dead. Men and women witnessed that Jesus' tomb was open and He was not there. Jesus was resurrected by the glory of the Father (Rom 6:1-11). Individuals played vital roles in assuring the world that Jesus was alive after death (1 Cor 15:1-10). They willingly verified that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was supernaturally raised from the dead. The outcome of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is the focal point of history and the ultimate proof of Christianity. Death is an enemy (Heb 2:14-16; 1 Cor 15:50-58). Jesus overcame death. The written record of how Jesus fulfilled all predictions concerning Himself, points to the fact that His death was the way and means God chose from the foundation of the world to redeem mankind from sin. No fair inquirer has been disappointed in their faith and faithfulness to Jesus.

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

The most frightening thing in our society today is a great many people believe there are many roads leading to salvation. They will argue, "What makes you think your way is right? My way is just as good as your way." With thousands of different so called religions claiming to have the truth with different views on the subject of salvation and being Christ like. What do the Scriptures say and how many ways are mentioned?

The Lord said the gate is small, the way is narrow, and there are few people who will find it (Matt. 7:14). Now, for us to get there we must enter by the narrow door, which means we must

live as Jesus gave us the example to live, in order to obtain eternal life. Anyone who climbs up some other way is like a thief and a robber (John 10:1). Jesus plainly tells us that He is the door (John 10:9).

In the Scriptures (God's Word) there is only one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all (Eph. 4:4-6). From what we have just referenced we can see there is only one way to the Father and His Kingdom and thus to receive eternal life (John 14:6). We must remember, it is impossible for God to lie and no lie is of the truth (Heb. 6:18; 1 John 2:21).

We are going to be judged by the words in the Bible and by our works (Rev. 20:12). If we live a life of righteousness and good works our names will be recorded in the book of life (Luke 10:20). Those that live their life according to the Scriptures will be resurrected to eternal life (John 5:28-29; Matt. 5:16).

Sometimes we depart this life very quickly, and sometimes we have the opportunity to lend support and offer many prayers. God's will is first and final. We must live our lives as the early Christians did in the first century according to the Scriptures. We must make preparation for the wonderful life to come. Obeying and living as the Scriptures teach and command us. (Read 2 Pet. 3:8-18)

If we are not gathered with saints when we are physically able we ought to re-think our position. The whole congregation is not complete without everyone present that could be. Hope to see you soon gathered with saints that miss you very much!

Continue to pray for our sick & shut-ins, and have a great week serving God!

~Dean Webb

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past tracing out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and unto him, are all things. To him be the glory for ever. Amen” (Rom 11:33-36).

CLUES TO RIGHT AND WRONG

Things done often times have a different response than expected. What is said or done will draw various reactions. It is interesting to see the ways and means individuals respond in pleasure or displeasure to quarrelsome circumstances. Remarks made about the behavior of others are predicated upon what pleases or displeases. Appealing to **standards of behavior**, which are expected, nearly always tries to say that there have been clear codes of practices understood by society as a whole. Doing away with standards gives certain individual sanction for inappropriate practices. Seeking a personal, special exemption or pretending to not know the standard is cause for response. To pretend that there are no laws or standards ignores

history. Failing to observe history dooms all to repeat actions taken in the past. From where do moral standards come? When should we be bound by conventional behavior?

Trying to demonstrate that another's actions are wrong is often met with disdain and rage. There would be no sense in trying to demonstrate "right and wrong" if there was no means of establishing such a case (Heb 5:11-14). Right and wrong can be established by law. The **law of nature** makes it clear that one jumping off a 10 story building without a parachute will end in disaster and injuries. Countless other laws insure that behavior breaking such laws will have dire consequences. A person can choose to obey the law of gravity or not. Each individual, in every moment of time, is subject to several sets of laws, but there is one that **they are not free** to ignore or disobey. This is a law not shared with animals, plants, minerals or vegetables. This they cannot disobey and be free from the consequences now and in eternity. Those who rage or have disdain are at odds with divine precepts and principles. A war with God is nonsensical for in a true sense enemies of right and wrong cannot argue for their standards. It is not in man to direct his spiritual and moral ways (Jer 10:3). What sense is there in saying the Nazis Third Reich was wrong if there were no standards? "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hinder the truth in unrighteousness; because that which is known of God is manifest in them; for God manifested it unto them. For the invisible things of him since the creation of the world are clearly seen, being perceived through the things that are made, even his everlasting power and divinity; that they may be without excuse: because that, knowing God, they glorified him not as God, neither gave thanks; but became vain in their reasonings, and their senseless heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God for the likeness of an image of corruptible man, and of birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things" (Rom 1:18-23).

One who says there is no "right or wrong" will sooner or later appeal to "right or wrong". He may break a law but will expect you to keep it. It seems like all are forced to admit there is a **transcendent law of right and wrong, good and bad, righteous or unrighteous**. The facts are that the foundational laws of God are clearly universal. Without God's laws employed the world would be a terrible place to live.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, November 14, 2010

Front foyer: Nancy Pond, Roberta Price

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

Sunday, November 21, 2010

Front foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

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

SINGING SESSION

The singing class will meet **Sunday** 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.

39'ers

Please see the signup sheet on the table in the front foyer for the Holiday meal to be served at the **November 15th** 39'er gathering at 6:30 pm in the Annex.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who contributed to the Christ's Haven grocery run; we are always complimented on our generosity.

TEEN WORK DAY

The Teens have scheduled **Saturday, November 13th** for a work day; please see Darrell Allen or John Mayer if you have anything you'd like done around the house.

LADIES

Ladies' class will meet **Tuesday, November 16th** at 9:30 a.m. with the lesson by Vera Gleghorn on "Study to Show Yourself Approved".

We will be compiling information for a calendar for Ladies' Half Day. Please submit Bible verses or devotional thoughts that you would like to be included; you may leave them in the secretary's box located in either foyer. Deadline for submission is December 31st.

CONGRATULATIONS

Marjorie Bennett has a 5th great grandchild, **Addison Ivy Smith**, born November 3rd weighing in at 7 pounds, 2 ounces in Lubbock.

WITH SYMPATHY

Judy Hancock passed away last week; memorial services will be held **Saturday, November 13th** at 11:00 a.m. here at the building.

Tiny McClain (Grady Fowler's mother) passed away last week in Alabama.

John Williams (Bobbie's son) passed away last Friday; visitation will be this evening (11/8) at the Boze-Mitchell-McKibbin Funeral Home in Waxahachie & services will be at the Maypearl Church of Christ tomorrow at noon. If you would like to send a card to Jane Winton, his sister, her address is 24231 Oak Bend Dr.; Luther, OK 73054.

Dovie Winniford (Kim Mayer's aunt) passed away in Beaumont last week.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- Mary Curtis, Amber, & Curtis** are all ill at home.
- Ruth Graham** suffered a heart attack & remains in Baylor/Irving, CCU.
- Frances LaFerney** is now home.
- Maxine Prude** got a good report from her tests.
- Ira Wolfe** will undergo testing at the VA today (11/8).
- Kyle Bowman** (Nancy Pond's nephew) has liver & heart problems.
- Betty Carroll** (Charlene's sister-in-law) suffers with health problems.
- Billy Easom** (formerly of S. Mac) passed away last week.
- Ted Lingren** underwent surgery on his ear which only worsened the problem.
- Bryce Massingale** (friend of Dana Hodgkins) suffers with health problems.
- Doug Price** (Roberta's son) underwent surgery on Friday.
- Elaine Prude** (Maxine's sister-in-law) has stage 4 cancer.
- Elizabeth Rosenbalm** (Jan Smithson's great grandbaby) will undergo brain surgery at Baylor/Irving on Wednesday (11/10).

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, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- November 14: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- November 14: Singing class in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- November 16: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m.

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

- Dean Webb
- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
- Romans 14:7-12

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Glen Kelly
- Marvin Brown

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Nathan Allen
- 2 Peter 3:14-18

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	97	77	84	125
A.M. Worship	141	140	148	210
P.M. Worship	73	95	77	112
Wed. Class	76	85	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	23	26	30	30
Contribution	\$6396	\$5865	\$5267	\$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