

September 14, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

September 20, 2009

a.m. *“Prepare to Meet Thy God”*

Scripture: Amos 4:6-13

p.m. *“Continual Fire”*

Scripture: Leviticus 6:8-13

Wait Upon The Lord

Don Hatch

It is no vain thing to wait upon the Lord. His providential activities are immeasurable. Vast arrays of good things constantly flow from the throne of grace which account for the children of God being blessed. God's provisions and power are applied constantly to His creation, expressly to His children (2 Cor 6:18-7:2). Being occupied in the ways of the Lord has serious and important consequences. God in His mercy has given to those who faithfully wear the name Christian opportunity to enter into His presence with joy and thanksgiving. Christians venture nigh unto God via the blood of Christ who died for their sins. By virtue of His vicarious death upon the cross He finished the work which unites the Christian to God the Father and allows them to be comforted in their hearts as the well-beloved of God. Comfort is essentially a process that commences with being baptized into Christ and continues with an active life on Christ's behalf. The realities of blessings are not obtrusive but gentle and kind, blending into the daily lives of Christians in a seamless and consistent flow of love and mercy. Prayer occupies a serious and important part of this valued flow of blessings. Christians wait upon the Lord and seek His pleasure (Psm 147:11). God does not forget His children. The Bible abounds with illustrations of the reality of blessings because of prayer. God in a loving and generous way hears and answers the saints prayers in accordance to His divine will. It is apparent that the prayers of saints have a profound effect on their lives as well as others. Prayers of Christians and the blood of Jesus seem to come together before the throne of grace and mercy to bring about desired effects.

Elijah is still remembered for his dynamic prayer (Jas 5:16). Christians are reminded to be of like passion, praying fervently for those items which will affect the world in righteousness. The able and ardent prayers of a righteous individual work effectually. Because of this saints are able see God's power doing substantially above and beyond what they ask or think (Eph 3:20, 21). Prayer, prayer, great help in prayer, words which fly beyond this dark world to Him who dwells in light and answers prayers. Elijah no doubt regarded prayer as worthy. He brought His specific request to God and was precise. He had a particular petition and a desired end for his prayer. His petition was presented to God, received and answered according to God's will. It

affected himself and others but it brought about change in his nation. His prayer was not a “shot-in-the-dark” or vague. He wanted to hit the mark. Aimless prayers were not his style. He could not expect God to move in wondrous ways if he had asked amiss. The history of the church has proved the reality of prayers being answered. Christians have summoned their courage and petitioned God repeatedly receiving answers in such a convincing manner that there is no doubt that God answers the saints prayers. Saints waited on the Lord (Psm 62:5).

Making entreaties about temporal, spiritual and a vast array of other matters relate to the good and bad events we all face. Personal matters are foremost in life. Keeping oneself unspotted from the world, without reproach and appearing before God through the Lord Jesus Christ makes all of us aware of the King of kings, Lord of lords who has immortality, dwells in light unapproachable, whom no man has seen wherein is the eternal power to bless Christians (1 Tim 6:11-16). The world is governed by a loving and gracious God. He is able in His providential way to fulfill the prayers of His children. God is mightier than any force upon the earth. Christians should enlarge their prayers and abound in an array of prayers. Prayers are not biased but display an attitude of seeking to make things better. Standing complete and righteous before God and entreating on behalf of others is a means of waiting on the Lord. The Lord Jesus prayed before an event and afterwards. Praying before a choice is made and seeing the results brings us to remember from whence all blessings flow. Great things can be done in the name of the Lord. Habits of prayer are exemplified regularly in the lives of godly people. Jesus prayed before He chose His disciples and for them after they were chosen. The circumference of a spiritually minded person’s life is boundless. More things are done by those who wait upon the Lord than all worldly dreams. We Christians turn aside to pray and are conversing with the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Christ taught His disciples to pray. He taught that the accomplishments of faith must be connected with seeking the will of the Father. He told them to have faith and not doubt. For prayers to be effectual they must be offered by faith in God’s power and willingness to answer (Jn 16:23; Matt 21:21, 22; Matt 6:6). God is represented in Scripture as trustworthy and caring. Yet, He does not answer our prayers according to human intelligence, but rather according to His. He can see the former and latter alike. Behind each seemingly closed opportunity there are limitless other avenues open if we will wait upon the Lord. Praying persistently is to “...ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and you will find; knock and it will be opened” (Lk 11:5-9). Humility in prayer destroys pride and self-will (Lk 18:9-14). Right relationships with others enhance the effectiveness of prayer. The Bible is explicit on the matter of prayer and God’s answers. Christian’s life deepens while waiting upon the Lord and be faithful. “Let integrity and uprightness preserve me. For I wait for thee...God” (Psm 25:21).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Grace and Works of Faith

I am a Christian. By virtue of my faith in Christ which moved me to repent of my sins and be baptized, I am “in Christ” and have been “born of water and the spirit” (Eph 1:1, 3, 10; John 3:5). The blood of Christ has forgiven the past, and I am in right relationship with God. Nevertheless, what do I do now? Where do I go from here?

As the author of Hebrews helps us get this issue in perspective, he writes to Christians of his day about their need of growth and development in spiritual things, he forces us to think of our own situation. One of the first things he states is the divine expectation of believers; Christians are expected to grow in their spiritual lives. *“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits”* Heb. 6:1-3. Second, he sounds a warning to his readers: failure to grow brings condemnation. *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.⁷ For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God;⁸ but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned”* Heb. 6:4-8. Finally, in verses 9-12 he gives them encouragement: Some signs of their growth are apparent.

Without going into details concerning this passage, its implications for use should be obvious. First, does God expect less of us than he did of the people who originally read these lines? If spiritual progress was demanded of them, do we seriously believe that he will accept spiritual stagnation in our lives? Who can be so naïve? Second, will our failure to mature into the likeness of Christ not bring us under condemnation? God is no respecter of persons, and he will not permit in us what he censured in others like us. Third, what evidence of progress can we point to in our spiritual lives? May we all examine our lives and live for Him.

Jerry McKey

“And who is he that will harm you, if ye be zealous of that which is good? But even if ye should suffer for righteousness' sake, blessed are ye: and fear not their fear, neither be troubled; but sanctify in your hearts Christ as Lord: being ready always to give answer to every man that asketh you a reason concerning the hope that is in you, yet with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, wherein ye are spoken against, they may be put to shame who revile your good manner of life in Christ” (1 Pet 3:13-16).

DECLARING THE UNKNOWN GOD

“And Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus, and said, Ye men of Athens, in all things, I perceive that ye are very religious. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and he made of one every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed seasons, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek God, if haply they might feel after him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us: for in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain even of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.²⁹ Being then the offspring of God, we

ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and device of man. The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent: inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked; but others said, We will hear thee concerning this yet again. Thus Paul went out from among them. But certain men clave unto him, and believed: among whom also was Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them" (Acts 17:22-34).

The people of Athens were known for being religious. They actively sought out all gods known to mankind and paid respect to them. Fearful of overlooking any they added a column and tagged it "to the unknown god". Upon seeing it Paul, an apostle of Christ, declared that what had been worshiped in ignorance represented an object lesson. There was an unknown, but not an unknowable God. Paul wanted to make them aware of this great and powerful God who could be worshiped in "spirit and truth" (Jn 4:23, 24). The foundation of this information was that God the Creator and Sustainer of the universe could be known and all men everywhere could understand that as Architect and Supporter He is all powerful.

It was ludicrous to believe that God was contained in a mere building made by hands. He was the God who was omnipresent. God gave life and continued for millenniums overseeing the wellbeing of mankind. No country or people were beyond His oversight. The list of nations with which He had been involved with is limitless. The confounding truth was that all men were the offspring of Adam, the first man. God had made of one blood all nations of men. Therefore God had established the bounds and habitations of the nations. Nations were not limitless in power or duration. Righteousness exalts a nation and sin is a reproach unto all (Prov 14:34). The righteous live and move and have their being in God and are the offspring of God. God is not represented by graven devices (Rom 1:18-23).

God gives time for men to know Him and repent of their sins. To gain forgiveness of sins is to be obedient to the first principles and seek to do the will of God in all things great and small. The assurance of forgiveness is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Some mock, others defer obedience, while others believe. God is faithful and just. Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, September 27, 2009

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth; Carol Swinney

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

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.

39'ers

The 39'ers will resume meeting again next Monday, **September 21st** at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex. Bring your potluck dish & enjoy the fellowship.

GOSPEL MEETING

Just a reminder that our Gospel Meeting is coming up very soon: **October 25 – 28.**

LADIES' BIBLE CLASS

Ladies' class will meet on Tuesday, **September 22nd** at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Beverly McKey on "The Darkness Around Us".

LADIES DAY

The Ladies of the Birdville Church of Christ have invited us to their Annual Ladies Day & Luncheon on **Saturday, September 26th** from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Please see more details on the bulletin board in the back foyer; they're requesting an RSVP.

THANK YOU

A big thanks for your love & support; your many sweet cards were very healing. The icing on all this was the delicious food you blessed us with. This is a time we will always be thankful that there are Christians like you. Much love, Robert & Cathy Taylor.

Dear Belt Line Family, thank you so very much for your continued love & support that you have given us both. Words cannot express how thankful we are for the card & money that you sent to us; you all are such a blessing from God to us. We really miss you & hope to visit soon. Love, Brandon & Kenica (Thomason).

CONGRATULATIONS

Harold Keller has a new great granddaughter named Reese who was born over the weekend.

NEW SONG CD

Be sure to see Bill Matthews if you'd like a CD that has been made with new songs for worship; we'll be using some of them on the next 5th Sunday Singing in November.

WITH SYMPATHY

John Ensey (Jamie & Megan Little's uncle) passed away from injuries of an auto accident in Oklahoma.

Mrs. Watson (Frances Tipton's friend) passed away last Wednesday.

NEWS OF THE SICK

- **Lyda McAlister** is in Baylor/Irving, room #472 with an infection.
- **Max Melton** will have an MRI & see the doctor on 9/22 for possible surgery on his shoulder.
- **Cathy Taylor** is now feeling better every day since surgery.
- **Leo Townsend** is experiencing difficulties & is still in the hospital for more tests today (9/14).
- **Raeanne Dunnavent** (Ty Harvey's sister) is seeking a second opinion about treatment.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Gwen Bingham, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Dessie Ross, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Louise Gierling (former member & Tom Gierling's mother), Judy Morris (Carolyn Montgomery's neice), Ilya Yakimenko (son of missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- September 20: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- September 20: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- October 25-28: Gospel Meeting

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Rob Farmer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Brandon Howard
- Bobby Bowen
- Virgil LaFerney

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Garl Latham
- Richard Renfro

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Henry Seidmeyer
Amos 4:6-13

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Glen Kelly
- James Gilliam

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Nathan Allen
Leviticus 6:8-13

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Ty Harvey (last song: Jerry McKey)

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- Garl Latham

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Mike Batot

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	83	106	93	125
A.M. Worship	144	150	156	210
P.M. Worship	91	90	86	112
Wed. Class	94	89	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5329	\$5573	\$5366	\$5474

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Willie 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
- 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