

September 29, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

October 5, 2008

a.m. "*Guest in God's House*"

Scripture: Psalm 16:1-11

p.m. "*Choice of Masters*"

Scripture: Joshua 24:14. 15

Moral Awareness

Don Hatch

Were man a mere animal, endowed with locomotion, instinct and limited mentality and unable to reason he would be but a brute. Destitute of powers to reason between right and wrong by recognizing the fundamental relationships in moral conduct there would be no need for conscience. A moral sense is an obligation and prime measurement which facilitates the function of a social order with God and man. A paramount observation within the Holy Scriptures is the scrutiny and obligation to promulgate those concepts which are righteous. There must be an authority which can mandate and demand unconditional obligations of good, right and fair play. There must be an unflinching predominance to recognize this higher authority. This course mandates a relationship to God and our conscience (2 Pet 1:3-11). The heart of the matter is to adjust will and behavior to that which is parallel to the divine nature. Springing from this is an immediate relationship within mankind where there are statutory laws held forth affirming an order or disorder within society. The domestic relationship of a parent, child, husband, wife, brother, sister or near consanguinity [blood-kin] is a primary place where conscience is demanded. A social order which embraces neighbors, fellow-citizens, church members and all noncommercial relationships must also demonstrate a need for a conscience. All other relationships demand equally justice, righteousness, courtesy, charity and sympathy. Mankind should engage in a system of being our "brother's keepers". Within this there is an obligation to one's personal life whereby a conscience blesses, criticizes and enriches the fabric of life. Conscience brings forth reason facilitating the moral concepts which obligate and exercise oversight of one's life, intellectual pursuit in righteousness and a diligence affecting a need to train the conscience which confirms that which is wholesome and good.

A defiled conscience must be purified that it may regard things sacred and divine, being able to separate sacred items from secular. The source of sacred knowledge is revelation. When man's moral values are purified from that which has defiled them there will be a regard for the realm of God as sacred and pure. A clear conscience has a good judgment of religion, brotherhood and fellowship with God. The blood of Jesus is the agency whereby the conscience is cleansed (Heb 9:11-22). A trained sense of right and wrong is judicial, punitive, predictive, social, virtuous, reasonable and charitable having a system implanted in the heart and mind by God which is unquestionably seeking redemptive values in daily living.

The conscience is a resource for an individual wherein the spiritual eye looks upward to the divine nature which never varies and contrasts failures on their part with heavenly purity. The

divine law never fails, but is the same yesterday, today and forever. It is a way to help an individual remain moored in things holy during raging moments of strong temptation. A trained conscience denounces the **appearance of evil** as a hollow lie. When trained the conscience urges a galvanizing of moral actions with that **which is upright and pure**. When **morally educated** a conscience is a resource that habitually results in right actions. A **skilled conscience** sees defilement and identifies ways to remain clean. Sensing right and wrong guides the whole of man's nature by an awakening to be pleasing to God.

It is essential that mankind realize a choice of the sacred is primary to establishing a trained conscience. This mysterious chamber is ever busy with thoughts which are subtle and can be taught to be eager to please and be guided by an authority based on the testimony of God. An experienced conscience reveals fully a dimension of our own helplessness and the just nature of God. God is just and the justifier of those who are obedient to Him. The conscience that is purged constantly is sensitive to the things in God. The conscience becomes aware of sinfulness, constraining the individual to seek forgiveness for trespasses and more readily longs for a fellowship with God. Learning the need for self-abasement is a lesson that defines worthiness and unworthiness demonstrating God's will in all practices. The boundless compassion of the Lord is a never failing mercy and is thus manifested in Jesus the Christ. Complete redemption is a deliverance from guilt, the power of moral ills and self-doubt. The conscience can be alerted to seek justification, sanctification, redemption, and fellowship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. The souls redeemed will both spiritually and intellectually see an effect by realizing they are freed from sin and guilt. There is appreciation for God's power to morally guide and strengthen individuals in a pursuit of righteousness. A practiced conscience realizes communion is with God. A purged conscience deliberates on how God frees one from guilt, defilement and the power of death. By the blood of Jesus an individual is brought into the presence of the holy living God. Thus, being sanctified we are separated from sin and fit for service of the most high God. We no longer employ ourselves in dead works which are merely mechanical forms of activity which are meaningless (Heb 5:11-6:8). Daily activities are deliberately determined so that the individual can be consecrated to God. Deliberation, prayer and study reinforce our moral awareness and our habits, wherein they become advantageous to us.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Now, it is just four weeks until our Gospel Meeting. Brethren, we have much to do making this successful. We must get the word out and believe it is worth the effort by participating, attending and being a leading example. We must be active in teaching the Gospel of Jesus to the lost both near and far.

Why should a person become a member of the Church of Christ? Let us look at some good scriptural reasons for consideration. Supporting scriptures are listed at the end of each reason:

1. Because it was founded by the Scriptural builder - Christ. (Matt. 16:18)
2. Because it was founded on the Scriptural foundation - the teachings of Christ. (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11; Eph. 2:20)

3. Because it was founded at the Scriptural place - Jerusalem. (Isa. 2:2-3; Lk. 24:46-49; Acts 2)
4. Because it was founded at the Scriptural time.....the first Pentecost following the resurrection of Christ. (Acts 2. "church" was used in the present tense for the first time.)
5. Because it is Scriptural in name. (Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16)
6. Because it is Scriptural in organization. (Phil. 1:1)
7. Because it has the Bible as its only creed. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
8. Because it is undenominational. (John 17:20-21)
9. Because it teaches and administers Scriptural baptism - immersion. (Matt. 28:18-19; Acts 8:36-37; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4)
10. Because it gives Scriptural answers to the question, "What must do to be saved?" (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16)
11. Because of its Scriptural teaching and observance of the Lord's Supper. (1 Cor. 11:23-25; Acts 20:7; 2:42)
12. Because it has Scriptural music in worship. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)
13. Because salvation is in Christ's Church. (Acts 20:28; 2:47; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18)

Why would anyone having knowledge of the simple Gospel of Christ not obey it immediately? The Scriptures tell us that sin condemns one's soul eternally, but God has given His Son making it possible for sin to be removed through obedience to the Son's will. Those that have never surrendered their life to Christ can become a member of that same church today - the one Christ said He would build (Matt. 16:18); the one that is found within the pages of the inspired Bible. By doing what they did in Acts 2, we can become what they became then, just Christians!

John 14:6 "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

Keep all of our sick and shut-ins in your prayers. Have a great week serving God and keeping His commandments.

~ Dean Webb

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Little Children

Jesus Christ is the champion of children (Mk 10:13-16). Who can measure the influence of the Bible on children? When children are exposed to the teachings of Jesus they are engaged in the most wonderful spiritual blessings they will ever know. Jesus is kind and gentle. In a world filled with much wrong conduct children need a source of comfort and love to which they can turn. Who can place a value on time spent in learning of Jesus? A child learns from Jesus immeasurable lessons about love, forgiveness, peace, grace, and mercy. In a broad sense they will learn the conditions to grow to a useful and productive adult. If the needs of spiritual qualities in a child are neglected it will grow, but into what? Setting the child on the road to great blessings starts with acquainting them with Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Children are always welcome in our Bible School. Give them a head start on an engaging life of joy and peace.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the October 3, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

THOSE TO SERVE IN OCTOBER

Lord's Table (front): Mike Batot, Glen Kelly, Thomas Rathbun, James Gilliam, Bill Matthews, Ty Harvey, Grady Fowler, Brandon Howard

(back): JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Bobby Bowen, Jeremy Hardegree, Virgil LaFerney, Derrol Allen

p.m. Darrell Allen; Bill Paschall

Card Pickup: a.m. Cole & Toby Howard; p.m. Nathan Allen & Alex Mayer

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly; Thomas Rathbun

Communion Preparers: Bobby & Mary Bowen

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, October 5, 2008

Front foyer: Henry & Frances Seidmeyer; Bill & Linda Matthews

Back foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Sunday, October 12, 2008

Front foyer: Stan & Doris Selby; JC & Dessie Ross

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

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

NEWS FOR GRADES K-12

There is a Bible Search 2008 being held at the Granbury Street Church of Christ in Cleburne on **Saturday, November 22nd** for grades K -12. Please see the notice on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more information.

LADIES

The Sunday afternoon Ladies' Class will meet in room #107 at 4:45 p.m.

The Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **October 7th** at 9:30 a.m.

The Cedar Hill Church of Christ has invited our ladies to a seminar given by Beth Moore on **October 17 & 18**. Please see the invitation on the bulletin board in the back foyer.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Melvin & Evelyn Armstrong welcomed a new great granddaughter into the world on September 26th. Her name is Sophia Lenz Belcher; she weighed 7#, 8 oz & she was 19" long.

THANK YOU

We would like to express our thanks & gratitude for the two gifts of love that we anonymously received. Both of us feel so blessed to be a part of this church family. With grateful hearts, Grady & BC Fowler

AREA ACTIVITIES

The Church of Christ at Rowlett is hosting the First Annual Rowlett Forum on **Saturday, October 4th** fro 9 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. with the theme of "Crucial Questions".

"Seeking Spiritual Strength" is the topic for the Gospel Meeting being held **October 5-8** at the Handley Church of Christ with John Hobbs as the speaker.

The Southside Church of Christ in Lubbock is conducting the Eleventh Annual Lubbock Lectureship with focus on *The Law of Christ* **October 12-16**.

Flyers on all are posted on the bulletin board in the back foyer.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Grady Fowler** has been running a fever off & on.
- **The Garrisons** request prayers for a safe journey while on vacation.
- **Judy Hancock** got a good report from an MRI; it showed no signs of new lesions.
- **Leo Townsend** requests prayers for health issues.
- **Kara Bennett** (Marjorie's 26 yr old granddaughter) has a blood clot in her leg. She is being treated & doing better now.
- **Ray Forbes** (Debra Alonzo's father) suffered a TIA stroke & was taken from Hugo to Durant for treatment.
- **Terri Griffith** (38 yr. old friend of the Fowlers) has inoperable cancer that has returned & is her lymph nodes & liver.

- **Nell Rodgers** (Carol Swinney's sister) is very ill.
- **Wayne Ruyle** (Ilene's son-in-law) has an aneurism on a heart valve; he has an appointment with a specialist on October 14th.
- **Ronnie Vaughn** (Dessie's son) expects to go home from the hospital today (9/29).

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bingham, Fauna Garrett, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Percy Henry (Hank's brother), Mildred Pennington (the Gilliam's sister-in-law), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Oct 5: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- Oct 5: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Bible Class in room #107 at 4:45 p.m.
- Oct 7: Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class in the Annex at 9:30 a.m.
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Shellie Pearce

Sunday evening:

- Jamie Little

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Glen Kelly
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- Brandon Howard
- Grady Fowler

Rear Table

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

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- John Mayer
- Harold Head

SCRIPTURE READING

- Stan Selby
Psalm 16:1-11

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Robert Ruckman
- Floyd Bryant

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Darrell Allen
- Bill Paschall

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	96	93	94	125
A.M. Worship	164	149	166	210
P.M. Worship	97	89	94	112
Wed. Class	93	93	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	27	19	20	35
Contribution	\$5000	\$4358	\$5359	\$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