

October 5, 2009

## SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

October 11, 2009

a.m. "*Sin the Detective*"

Scripture: Numbers 32:20-27

p.m. "*God's Inner Circle*"

Scripture: Psalm 91:1-8

### Permanent Value Of The Old Testament

Don Hatch

**The biographical accounts** of Jesus give scanty information of the life of Christ as a youth. The significance of what He learned and the application of these lessons are vividly illustrated in the supreme way He lived and taught what He had learned when He became an adult. Jesus, "grew stronger, becoming filled with wisdom; and grace of God was upon Him" (Lk 2:40).

**Jesus was constantly** in close communion with the Heavenly Father and was eager to manifest this vital relationship. It requires no imagination that Jesus applied Himself to the lessons from the Scriptures. The sacred writings were paramount in His life. He quoted and alluded to them throughout His ministry. Events and history of faithful men and women were reflected in His lessons. The Old Testament background is a large portion of the Sermon on the Mount. From Deuteronomy 6: 4, 5 and Leviticus 19:8 there is the wonderful embodiment of all the law and duty with which He bound Himself. The wisdom literatures of the Proverbs are practical truths He applied to His life under a spiritual authority unheralded until He conveyed them in His lessons. From the storehouse of the Old Testament Jesus crystallized the proverbial figures and expanded them in His parables. He adopted and put into use the gnomic form [wise and pithy] of teaching from the wisdom of the Old Testament. At every point Jesus' teachings were recognized as great moral and religious principles which remain unsurpassed. In the greatest temptations He quoted the law, prophets and psalms.

**That which was so striking** about Jesus became apparent in His apostles. They gave us the New Testament. The atmosphere, thoughts and dialogue which they spoke was that of the Old Testament. The true reverence which was to be accorded the Old Testament was the basis of their personal lives. The authority of the Old Testament was transferred to the New Testament. It became Scripture. The church received these scriptures, using them as Christ had used the Old Testament. They nobly echoed the Law, Prophets and Psalms as a teacher, as a tutor to bring those who searched to a faith in Christ Jesus. Divine love, mercy and grace prompted a sincere devotion and development of faith. Undoubtedly the values of godliness, righteousness, holiness, purity and other basic ethics had been first tested in the Old

Testament. They exalted and personified God, placing a seal of approval on the many passages which spoke of Christ coming and His work as Redeemer. Against intolerable persecutions the scriptures of the New Testament became the same refuge for the souls of men as the Old Testament. The result was a deliberately accelerated desire to know the values of both Old and New Testaments. From these the foundation for proving God remained the same throughout the ages was expanded.

**A casual onlooker** watching the New Testament Church develop would realize the permanency of the Old Testament's values. They were written for comfort, learning, patience and hope (Rom 15:1-13). They were examples of temptations, admonitions and manifested that God made a way of escape that the church might endure (1 Cor 10:1-13). Little wonder that virtues of Christians surpass vague and unreal philosophical teachings in all generations. History demonstrates convincingly the persistent hold the Old Testament's values had on the early Church. The Old Testament often goes unread and studied because of its history. The Old Testament contains complex literature, figures and quaint language with difficulties that require detailed study. The providence of God starts in the Old Testament and grows expeditiously in the New. The influence which the Bible has on the world is supremely interesting. Familiarity with noble traits, awe-inspiring deeds, distinguished personalities, and their relationship to God eclipses all other history.

**The preference which the church** gave to the permanent values of the Old Testament leaves little doubt that the many laws, legal precedents and ecclesiastical history has molded many nations. Belief in a divine origin concreted a vivid form of civil, social and humane dialog that would out last the centuries. Every effort to eliminate or supplant the Bible has fallen by the wayside. Wise men that were allowed to pen God's inspired words gave significant proof that the Bible is of great value. The Bible is owned by millions, its teachings govern their lives and makes where it is used a better country. It appeals to mankind in all ages.

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

I had a wonderful telephone visit this past week with Wil Sadler, our missionary for the American military Christian families in Germany. I have written about Wil and his wife Telanda before, but they still amaze me. God blesses this couple with great courage and excitement for the Lord's work, even though both endure severe hardships. Telanda is always there, by his side through all the pain and difficulties. Wil had four surgeries in less than two months and a life threatening reaction to some medicine. Remember he is self-supported; with all contributions and support going to their work overseas. This has been a terrible year in most people's estimation for Wil. His kidneys stopped functioning earlier this year, he still suffers with blindness and total numbness from his knees down. Every night he plugs his dialysis machine into his body to maintain his life. After all of this, he is excited about going to Germany on Monday, Oct 5. He has tackled the government bureaucracy of finally getting permission to carry his dialysis equipment on the flight with him. He never complains to me, but gives God all the glory for allowing him to serve Jesus Christ. Last year, he took about ten thousand tracts back to Arkansas to be distributed for Mission Printing. He gladly reported that he sent several boxes to Germany and gave the rest to surrounding churches who could not afford tracts. The results of the tracts for one suffering congregation (only four members) were that they were able to utilize the tracts to revive the church (twelve members at present). He

plans to visit us later in the year and take more tracts for the spreading of the Word by the printed page. Wil writes fiction as his pastime and the proceeds of his books go to his mission work. He is an unbelievable example of a Christian working for God through incredible physical difficulties. Did I fail to mention that he preaches for a congregation every Sunday morning and evening? There is one request that Wil has of us. Please pray for his efforts in gaining the permission from the medical powers that be to be put on the list for a kidney replacement. May we reconsider our dedication to God when things get tough and we start complaining? We ask God to watch Wil and Telanda with tenderness and love while they make this important mission trip.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress." Philippians 4:13, 14

~ Richard Renfro

### **The Possibility**

"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. In love of the brethren be tenderly affectioned one to another; in honor preferring one another; in diligence not slothful; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing stedfastly in prayer; communicating to the necessities of the saints; given to hospitality. Bless them that persecute you; bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that rejoice; weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Set not your mind on high things, but condescend to things that are lowly. Be not wise in your own conceits. Render to no man evil for evil. Take thought for things honorable in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as in you lieth, be at peace with all men. Avenge not yourselves, beloved, but give place unto the wrath of God: for it is written, Vengeance belongeth unto me; I will recompense, saith the Lord. But if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him to drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" (Rom 12:9-27).

The concept which blends amiability and faithfulness into a life is derived from knowing the mind of Christ (Phil 2:1-12). It is not surprising that those who read the Bible have a different view of all events. They see God in everything. Christians complete their task without hesitation to do that which is right. The beneficial effect of such lives is visible evidence that the Christian can be trusted.

Christianity has done more for the nations of the world than can be measured. Its influence should be heartily accepted because it embraces that which is true, honorable, just, lovely, of good report, virtuous and praiseworthy (Phil 4:8, 9). Christians have solemn and deep seeded consciences which hold that personal purity and responsibility that are a sacred trust which must not be violated. There is never any superficial action, but rather a genuine equilibrium of purpose and deeds. Christianity is not mere arbitrary acts of personal will, without regard or view of sin. There is a persistence of upholding that which is noble and righteous. The foundation of Christianity is to manifest that God is wise and trustworthy.

The people who are destined to glory possess an urgency to see the divine way of living viewed as reasonable and right. Christianity renders a practical service by demonstrating

genuine love, abhorring evil and clinging to good (Rom 12:9). Insincerity may trouble others but not the Christian. They prefer that which is honorable. They evaluate finding joy and hope by practicing that which is good. They rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep (Rom 12:15). It is possible to have a peace which passes all understanding (Phil 4:17). Christianity does not return evil for evil. Vindictiveness is condemned. Such would destroy the spiritual essence of Christianity. They seek a peace that is vital and is maintained by sanctifying Jesus Christ in their hearts (1 Pet 3:14-22). The scriptures are supremely valuable. Sin is a reproach to any people, but righteousness exalts a nation (Prov 14:34). Christianity maintains righteousness. Christianity is the great "possibility" of a better world.

~ Don Hatch

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, October 11, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Richard & Carolyn Renfro: Thomas Rathbun

**Back foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby

### **Sunday, October 18, 2009**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney

## **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.

### **THANK YOU**

Dear Belt Line Family, thank you for the cards, calls, prayers & the beautiful pink azalea plant you sent for my mother's funeral service. She loved you all, Jerry & Laquita Baker & family, David & Jackie Aechtermacht & family.

Mission Printing thanks **Kati Mimms, Kayla, Scot, & Darrell Allen** for taking time Saturday to help prepare part of a 600 box shipment to Ghana, Africa. Remember, next Saturday is our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

I want to thank the Beltline congregation so much for the prayers, calls, & cards I have received during my illness. No words can express the appreciation for the love & care this congregation has shown me during this difficult time. God's love & grace has been shown through your actions & I pray that He will bless each of you the way He has blessed me. Please continue to keep me in your prayers & again thank you for your true Christian love & I thank our living God for the avenue of prayer. In Christian love, Leo Townsend

Sincere thanks to everyone at Belt Line for the visits, cards, prayers, & well wishes extended during Mom's long illness & passing. We took great comfort from the support of her friends & loved ones from Belt Line. We especially want to thank Mike & Elizabeth Garrison for their wonderful caring & support for Mom & us as well. The family of Gwen Bingham.

### **GOSPEL MEETING**

Pick up some advertisement flyers located in both foyers regarding our upcoming Gospel Meeting & share with your friends.

The Granbury Church of Christ will hold a Gospel Meeting on October 18-21 with speaker Oran Rhodes. Please see the flyer in the back foyer for more information.

### **FOSTER'S HOME FOR CHILDREN**

Thank you to the congregation for your gift to the "Gleaning for Children" campaign; you gave \$238.47 to help make a difference in 54 children's lives. Also to the 2-1/2 through 4 year-old classes, your gift of \$15.92 will also be put to good use for these kids. Thank you!

### **CHRIST'S HAVEN**

It's time for the Fall grocery run for Christ's Haven; if you'd like to participate, pick up a bag from either foyer. The pickup is scheduled for the morning of **Tuesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

### **LADIES**

Ladies' class will meet on **Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Jan Smithson on "The Reflection: God's People are Light/Walking in the Light".

### **NEWS OF THE SICK**

- Erma Lee Baker** wasn't feeling well yesterday.
- Mary Jackson** will get a new defibrillator on Thursday.
- Jean Kelly** has been ill at home, but is better now.
- Phoebe Latham** got good results from the MRI taken last week.
- Allison Price** is having an ear procedure today.

- Stan Selby** underwent carpal tunnel surgery & is doing well.
- Leo Townsend** is now at home.
- Dorothy Beavers** (former member) is ill at home.
- Peyton Barnett** (the Fowler's 3-month old great niece) did well through heart surgery & is now off of the ventilator.
- Tina McClaine** (Grady Fowler's mother) has a heart condition that is worsening.
- Bill Matthews** (Bill & Linda's son) had been ill with the swine flu.
- The Vaughan's** (Mary Curtis' family) is ill at home. Curtis suffers with the swine flu & severe asthma, Crystal is getting sick, & Mary Ellena is running 102 degree temp.

### **Continuing Prayer Concerns:**

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Max Melton, 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), & our shut-ins.

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- October 11: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- Octobrr 11: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- October 13: Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- October 25-28: Gospel Meeting

### **LORD'S TABLE/MORNING**

#### **Front Table**

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- Brandon Howard
- James Gilliam
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Glen Kelly

#### **Rear Table**

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Roy Martin
- Bobby Bowen
- Virgil LaFerney

### **SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS**

- Richard Renfro
- Marvin Brown
- Jerry Baker

### **A.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Ty Harvey  
Numbers 32:20-27

### **A.M. SONG LEADER**

- Darrell Allen

### **SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Denzil Myers
- Glen Kelly

### **P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Nathan Allen  
Psalm 91:1-8

**P.M. SONG LEADER(S)**

Jerry Baker

**LORD’S TABLE/EVENING**

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

**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	102	87	93	125
A.M. Worship	160	170	156	210
P.M. Worship	72	73	85	112
Wed. Class	92	90	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	21	19	25	35
Contribution	\$4775	\$6992	\$5386	\$5474

***MISSIONS***

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- 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 – 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