

**September 2, 2008**

**SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**September 7, 2008**

a.m. *"Test Your Faith"*

Scripture: James 2:14-26

p.m. *"The Good Will of God"*

Scripture: Deuteronomy 33:1-5

**Participating In A Gospel Meeting**

Don Hatch

The early church spread the "good news" among the nation (Matt 28:18-20; Mk 16:15, 16; Acts 1:8-10). They turned the world upside down to assist in the conversion of the lost into Christians (Acts 7:1-9; 1 Tim 1:15). Christianity begins and continues with knowledge of Christ. The spectrum of truth and the scope of righteousness is the changing of a whole life into a "new creature" or one who has been reconciled to God through Christ (Eph 2:11-23). The loss of fellowship with God because of sin can be regained by a union with Christ (Phil 3:1-16). A past sinful life can be redeemed by the precious blood of Christ the Lamb of God (Jn 1:29, 35). His blood can purify the soul when an individual is obedient to the truth (1 Pet 1:13-25; Rom 1:1-5). This spiritual knowledge advances the individual to aspiring and stretching forward to the goal of the high calling in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:11-16). Spiritual ambition leads to a goal of perfecting Christian attributes in converts. In Christianity there is a beginning and advancement to a higher ground of spiritual graces.

Attainment is a gauge for spiritual growth (Heb 5:11-14). The summit of spiritual challenges is consecration to Christianity. Maturing and growing up in Christ is by stages and each step goes higher and higher. A deepening sense of Christian values accents attainment. The law of growth is seen in the natural world and in the spiritual. Discipleship implies discipline. Like an athlete the Christian experiences exercise where there is self-control in all things and the race is not done with uncertainty (1 Cor 9:23-27). Struggles mark the way of the Christian (2 Tim 2:1-13). Enduring all things to obtain a crown of life is manifested in the lives of Christians (2 Tim 4:4:1-8). Christians must become like the Master. To accept Christ as Master brings joy and salvation. When an individual consents to the Christian way of living any accommodation of sin is renounced (Col 3:5-10). Temptations are not removed but the fleshly mind is diminished while the spiritual mind grows. Opportunities increase for mastery of the carnal man if the Christian seeks them (Gal 5:16-24). The will to do good must be ever present. When the truth is found there is to be a willingness demonstrated in applying its principles to daily living.

What one thinks and practices begins with the act of concern for life that now is and that which is to come (1 Tim 4:8; 1 Jn 5:13). There must be a desire to do good wherein the mind and will longs to be like the Master. Conquering self and sin is never accomplished half-heartedly. Standing for the right and favoring purity is accomplished by knowing that God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and brethren are for us (Rom 8). Life has a mixture of blessings and temptations wherein Christians thrive. The foundation for all growth and accomplishment in Christ is

thorough diligence and study (2 Tim 2:15; Heb 11:6). In the end the spiritual life which probes and grows has a constitution and will that is strong in the strength of the Lord (Eph 6:10-20).

The early church congregated together in order to teach the gospel (Acts 11:19-26). Linking their lives together and in a mutual “admiration society” they chose to diligently seek other souls to encourage in the ways of righteousness. Being fitted for life, godliness and holy living brethren dynamically develop a community which seeks to add others to it through obedience to the gospel. Love abounds exceedingly in a congregation, one towards another, and the manifest token of righteousness is that they want others to have the same fellowship with God that they share, that the name of Christ may be glorified.

Today we can have the same effect if we exercise the essential of spiritual living. Looking forward to our Gospel Meeting with brother **Robert Dodson October 26-29** we can plan to see that our friends and acquaintances will hear the Gospel preached. Faith comes by hearing (Rom 10:16, 17) and without faith it will be impossible for them to please God (Heb 11:6). Moreover unless they obey the Gospel they will be unprepared to meet their God in eternity (2 Thess 1:3-9).

**Our objective** is **to teach the lost** (2 Thess 1:7-9). There are so many of our friends and relatives who are yet lost in sin. Some of these can be reached through the exhortation from brother Dodson (Rom 10:1-15).

**Our objective** will to **restore the neglectful** (Gal 6:1-5). Some, who once were full of love and zeal, have drifted away from God and need to be brought back. The good news (Gospel) will have a profound effect on their lives. A Gospel Meeting is a wonderful means of accomplishing this spiritual work.

**Our objective** is to **strengthen the saints** (Acts 20:18-35). We all need encouragement from time to time (Rom 15:1-9). Encouraging one another in a series of meetings is designed to remind us of the power of the Gospel (Rom 1:16, 17).

Preaching the truth in love never harms. Mutually we can accomplish great thing in the Lord's name. It is not too early to make a prayer list of those which we know need to hear the gospel and respond to it. The abiding principle of a good **Gospel Meeting** is congregational participation.

## **FAMILY CARE**

### **A Message from Our Shepherds**

Paul warns Timothy in II Timothy 4:1-5. “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: **Preach the word!** Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to

fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

We are fortunate that God has blessed Beltline with such a minister in Don Hatch. We depend on his great sermons every Sunday and his Bible class teaching. We depend on Don to help us visit the hospitals and the bereaved. We depend on him to write articles for our bulletin and for the newspaper. He is always willing to assist in difficult times for our families and their loved ones. He did an excellent job in choosing quality ministers to present our Summer Wednesday Night Series.

The elders appreciate the strong scriptural stance and the dedication of Don Hatch as our minister. We have a wonderful staff here at Belt Line. Letitia Beverly and Mike and Elizabeth Garrison always do more than expected. They are very conscientious in doing their best for the Lord's work.

May we all give them a pat on the back and a job well done. Have a wonderful week in the Lord.

~ Richard Renfro

### **Death, Burial, & Resurrection of Christ**

According to Romans 6:17, 18, Paul shows that our salvation depends on our obedience to the “form” or “pattern” given in the Gospel. A proclamation of the Gospel must include the death, burial, & resurrection of Christ (1 Cor. 15:1-4). Acceptance of the Gospel is obedience to the Gospel's pattern – the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. Paul clearly shows in this chapter how such obedience takes place. Through faith in God, we die to our sins in repentance. In baptism we are plunged into Christ's death (verse 3), where His blood was shed. In baptism we are buried with Him (verse 4), even as Christ was buried. *“As Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”* (verse 4). Therefore, it is through our faith leading us to repentance and then to burial in baptism that the “pattern” of doctrine is obeyed and freedom from sin is realized. Again, thank God that He has given us His pattern!

~ Jerry L. Davidson; Bible teacher at Heritage Christian University; Florence, AL

## **SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008**

### **Glory To God**

The uniqueness of the church is that she brings glory to God (Eph 3:20,21). Believers constitute a distinctive people who love and praise God. God is able to do exceedingly, abundantly and above all we ask or think according to His power that worketh in the church. Every knee should bow to the Father from whom all blessings flow (Jas 1:17, 18). He grants to the faithful, strength and power in the inward man, according to the riches of His glory (Eph 3:14-19).

Because of His marvelous mercy and grace let us give God the glory. Contemplating His kaleidoscope of wonderful love gives rise to a fitting praise. An omnipotent God, who answers prayers according to His divine will, is worthy of all honor. He is able to do all we ask of Him, even above and beyond in ways that challenge mere human description. God's power has called us out of darkness into light, makes us dear children and reconciles us to Him by His Son. Homage and adoration should be rendered to Him. Blessings on the church are a foretaste of an endless eternity with a God who blesses. Reverential praise is justified for our great God. Worship with us Sunday and give God the glory.

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the September 4, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

### **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **Sunday, September 7, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Grady & BC Fowler; Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Henry & Frances Seidmeyer

#### **Sunday, September 14, 2008**

**Front foyer:** Stan & Doris Selby; Brandon & Kenica Thomason

**Back foyer:** JC & Dessie Ross

## **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.

### **FOSTERS' HOME**

Please return your filled coin cans for the Foster's Home for Children **by this Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** for pick up next week.

### **IT'S A BOY!**

Mary Wise welcomed her newest great grandbaby, **Casey Alexander Compton**, who was born last Friday & weighed 8 pounds.

### **BIBLE CLASS FALL QUARTER**

Due to Leap Year, the fall quarter Bible classes are scheduled to begin this **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. These are promotion days. Teachers, let Brother Hatch know if you need supplies.

### **NEW ADDRESS**

Please make note of a new address for **Justin & Annelise Hardegree**: 1817 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St., #5; Waco, TX 76706.

### **RESPONSE**

**BC Fowler** came forward Wednesday evening asking for prayers for strength & guidance.

### **LADIES**

The Sunday afternoon Ladies' Class will begin this week, **September 7<sup>th</sup>** in room #116 (this week only) at 4:45 p.m. Mike Batot will be our guest speaker.

Also, the Tuesday morning Ladies' Bible Class will begin again on **September 9<sup>th</sup>** at 11:00 a.m. with Brother Don Hatch as our guest speaker. Lunch will follow; mark your calendar!

Those who would like to work on bears, please meet in the Annex on **Tuesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>** immediately following Ladies' Bible Class.

### **TEACHER APPRECIATION**

A Teacher Appreciation Banquet is being planned for all Bible School Teachers. Mark your calendar for **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>** from 6pm-8pm in the Annex.

### **WEDDING SHOWER/RECEPTION**

The Birdville Church of Christ is hosting a wedding reception/shower for former member **Ron Baker** & his bride, Melissa Vaughn on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. The two were married in California on August 23<sup>rd</sup>; they are registered at JC Penney, Target, & Wal-Mart.

### **THOSE TO SERVE IN SEPTEMBER**

**Lord's table** (front): Purman Cofer, Jerry Baker, Dorris Walker, Brandon Thomason, Robert Ruckman, Marvin Brown, Tom Prince, Denzil Myers

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

**P.M.** Stan Selby, Rob Farmer

**Card Pickup:** a.m. Cole Howard, Curtis Vaughan; p.m. Scot Allen, Kenny Mayer

**Contribution Counters:** Stan Selby, Rob Farmer

**Communion Preparers:** Bill & Linda Matthews

### **UPCOMING NEIGHBORING EVENTS**

The **College Street Church of Christ** in Waxahachie is holding their Gospel Meeting beginning next Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>; the lessons will be about "Knowing Jesus".

The **Handley Church of Christ** will be hosting "Bible Quiz at Handley" for ages Grade 3 through Adults on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (except December).

Please see the back foyer bulletin board for more information on both of these.

### **WITH SYMPATHY**

**Carroll Bennett** (the Grantham's brother-in-law) passed away last Saturday; services were held in Lubbock.

**Richard Freeman** (Gayle Ratcliff's grandfather) passed away last Saturday.

**Emma Lea Martin** (Elizabeth Garrison's sister) passed away last Wednesday evening; services were held at the Freetown Road Church of Christ last Saturday.

### **PRAYER CONCERNS**

- **Bob Bingham** will need chemo implants.
- **Marion Grantham** will need a CAT scan, scheduled for 9/4.
- **Lauren Roses** cut her foot playing in the Gulf while in Biloxi last week & needed six stitches.
- **Mary Lou Tibbetts** continues to suffer with health problems.
- **Drew Battistelli** (Julie Roses' nephew) is home with home healthcare.
- **Shirley Ryan** (Frances Tipton's niece) is struggling with personal problems & requests prayers.
- **Danny Tewell's** (Thomas Rathbun's cousin) apartment was broken into last week.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Fauna Garrett, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Jan Smithson, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Joy Gilliam (the Gilliam's daughter-in-law), 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 -

- Sept 7 & 10: Bible Class promotion days & Fall ¼ begins
- Sept 7: Sunday afternoon Ladies' Class at 4:45 p.m.
- Sept 9: Tuesday morning Ladies' Class at 11:00 a.m. w/ lunch
- Sept 13: Ladies' 'Intreat" at Keller Church of Christ; speaker, Beverly McKey
- Sept. 23: Work on bears in the Annex after LBC
- Oct 26-29: Fall Gospel Meeting, Robert Dodson

## NURSERY ATTENDANTS

### Sunday morning:

- Julie Roses

### Sunday evening:

- Jamie Little

## LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

### Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Brandon Thomason
- Robert Ruckman
- Marvin Brown
- John Mayer
- Thomas Rathbun

### Rear Table

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

## SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Grady Fowler

## SCRIPTURE READING

- Garl Latham  
James 2:14-26

## SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Mike Garrison
- Ty Harvey

## LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Stan Selby
- Rob Farmer

## 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	87	76	94	125
A.M. Worship	152	150	166	210
P.M. Worship	105	85	94	112
Wed. Class	101	160	95	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	28	35
Contribution	\$4738	\$5467	\$5385	\$5400

## **MISSIONS**

21<sup>st</sup> 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