

September 28, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

October 4, 2009

a.m. "*A Commonwealth of Christ*"

Scripture: Ephesians 2:11-22

p.m. "*The Death to Die*"

Scripture: Numbers 23:7-12

Redeemed By The Blood Of The Lamb

Don Hatch

That which haunts many is secure in the Lord. Ezekiel sets forth a unique set of guidelines about righteousness and iniquity. His principles are that if the wicked turn from their sins and keep the statutes of God by doing that which is according to law and rightness they can be reunited with God. These will surely live and not die. None of the former unrighteousness will be remembered anymore. God has no pleasure in the death of a sinner. God wants mankind to return from their evil ways and live. Turning from unrighteousness to righteousness is a major step in anyone's life. Yet when a righteous person turns away from righteousness and commits iniquity, becoming abominable before the Lord, will he live? None of the righteous deeds remain, his trespasses are a snare unto his soul and in his sin he shall die (Ezek 18:21-24). The wicked can turn from sin and the righteous can turn from righteousness. The security of one's soul depends on remaining steadfast in the ways of the Lord.

Some wonder how long one must be a committed Christian and if they are saved because of being obedient to the Gospel, "how can I fall from grace"? Some fret that they were saved only to be lost in the following moments and thus strive to gain salvation by extensive works. The teachings of scriptures are that a soul redeemed by the blood of Jesus must understand being saved by the grace is God's side and the redeemed must maintain a fellowship with God by walking in His light (1 Jn 1:1-10; 2 Cor 6:14-18). Alas, many are not concerned with faithfulness in worship, daily living and personal attitudes. Paul wrote, "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid. We who died to sin, how shall we any longer live therein" (Rom 6:1, 2)? Any doctrine of "eternal security and perseverance of the saints", which teaches that the saved can never fall from grace, is flawed (Gal 5:4). When one who has been redeemed falls away into apostasy it is often said, "They never were really saved or they would not have fallen" (1 Tim 1:18-20; 2 Tim 4:9-18). Hence, it becomes God's fault that they fell. That is blasphemy. It is implied that the Christian has an imputed righteousness and Christ's work as a mediator declares that one can never fall. The evidence is overwhelming that mankind has a free moral agency which can choose either to serve God or not.

Another question, is it true that once the “sinner’s prayer” is uttered Christ is responsible for the remaining portion of the redeemed life and the saved have no further responsibility to buffet their bodies, war against the flesh or put to death any action contrary to Christ? Always remember salvation is not by works lest anyone should boast (Eph 2:1-10). If we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of God’s truth, what will be the sacrifice that will redeem us? Is it true that judgment will be according to the deeds we do in the body (2 Cor 5:1-10)? The coming of Jesus will be when He judges the living and dead. Does the Christian have to hold to the faith, retain the truth, fight the good fight and finish the course? Judgment holds no terror to the faithful, but “...For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and a fierceness of fire which shall devour the adversaries. A man that hath set at nought Moses law dieth without compassion on the word of two or three witnesses: of how much sorer punishment, think ye, shall he be judged worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant wherewith he was sanctified an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God” (Heb 10:26-31). Willful sins stand out as practices which are deemed unworthy of God and bring reproach on His name.

“Wherefore leaving the doctrine of the first principles of Christ, let us press on unto perfection... For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame. ...But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak: for God is not unrighteous to forget your work and the love which ye showed toward his name, in that ye ministered unto the saints, and still do minister. And we desire that each one of you may show the same diligence unto the fulness of hope even to the end: that ye be not sluggish, but imitators of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Heb 6:1-12). Redemption by the blood of Jesus is a sacred trust we honor. The persuasion to keep the ways of God inviolate removes any temptation to bring shame upon the name of Jesus. God will neither leave nor forsake us as we press on to perfection. Knowing others have demonstrated faithfulness, such as those called “just men made perfect” by the blood of Jesus heightens our desire to press on to the mark of the high calling in Christ (Heb 12:22-29; Phil 3:13-16). What can wash away our sins? Nothing but the blood of Jesus!

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

Counting The Cost

We all need to realize that living a Christian life is worth counting the cost of being a Christian. God expects us to count the cost. Have you lately? The following article was written by **Patrick Morrison** entitled “Counting the Cost.”

“Those who desire to follow Jesus must first consider the cost of walking with him day by day. This is the point Jesus conveys in Luke 14:28-32. A wise man would count the cost before endeavoring to build a tower, lest he complete only a portion of the work, being forced to stop

for lack of money. A wise king would first consider the risk of marching to war against a foe with far superior numbers. This same wisdom must be displayed by those who wish to be disciples of Christ. We need to ask ourselves, "Am I counting the cost?"

Unfortunately, many attempt to follow Christ who have yet to count the cost. Many build their dream houses and move in, but they are unwilling to make the payments. Many see the blessings enjoyed by those who follow Christ, and they desire to enjoy the same blessings, yet they are unwilling to let go of those things that stand between them and God. God must occupy first place in our lives. God must come before father, mother, brother, sister, son daughter, husband, wife, houses, lands, yea even our own lives.

Why would Jesus ask his would-be disciples to first count the cost? He who does not count the cost will live a life of lukewarm service to God, and God despises lukewarmness in those who profess to be His (Rev.3:15-17). He would rather us count the cost and decide the cost of being a disciple of Christ is too great, than to rush into battle for the Cause, only to realize that the demands on a soldier of the cross are much greater than we ever intended to bear.

~Jerry McKey

"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, Than a house full of feasting with strife. A servant that dealeth wisely shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, And shall have part in the inheritance among the brethren. The refining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold; But Jehovah trieth the hearts. An evil-doer giveth heed to wicked lips; And a liar giveth ear to a mischievous tongue. Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker; And he that is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished. Children's children are the crown of old men; And the glory of children are their fathers. Excellent speech becometh not a fool; Much less do lying lips a prince. A bribe is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it; Whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth. He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; But he that harpeth on a matter separateth chief friends. A rebuke entereth deeper into one that hath understanding Than a hundred stripes into a fool. An evil man seeketh only rebellion; Therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him" (Prov 17:1-11).

I Am That I Am

"And Jehovah said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people that are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; and I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians... And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, what is his name? What shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you" (Ex 3:1-18).

Moses was born exceedingly fair and was cared for by his family until taken into the house of Pharaoh's daughter. He was instructed in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and became mighty in words and deeds. At age forty Moses chose to suffer the ill treatment of the people of God, rather than enjoy the pleasure of sin for a season; accounting the reproach of Christ of greater value than the treasures of Egypt. He looked unto the recompense of reward in Christ. Upon

seeing the afflictions of his people he avenged one that was being oppressed. He supposed his brethren understood that God by his hand was giving them deliverance; but they understood not. He became a sojourner in the land of the Medianites where he married and beget two sons. After a full forty years an angel appeared unto him in a flaming bush on Mount Sinai. He drew near and heard the voice of the Lord say "I am the God of thy fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The Lord told him that he had seen the afflictions of Israel and their groanings. Moses was to go back to Egypt and free the people of God" (Heb 11:23-28; Acts 7:20-42).

No doubt Moses had been specially trained by God for this task. He learned the wisdom of Egypt. Moses was well acquainted with authority He had exercised and submitting to it. His fears were displayed when told by God that he would be the one to lead his people out of bondage, he did not want this leadership. He had doubts concerning his ability for he had served as a shepherd for forty years. However, all the training in Egypt and the wilderness had molded Moses into that which God would use. He asked God for proof of his authority, evidently sensing that merely telling them that "the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob" was not credible enough. He stated his question in an indirect way, declaring the unbelief of the people saying, "they" would want to know, who this God was.

God answered Moses with the awe inspiring declaration, "I AM THAT I AM." God is the self-existent One, the Creator, Sustainer and Lord of all. He is, because He is. No one made Him. God made all else that is, including Moses, the Israelites and Egyptians. This assurance sanctioned Moses to return to Egypt and lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. God's name should be enough to empower us. "I am Jehovah, and there is none else; besides me there is no God. I will gird thee, though thou hast not known me; that they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none besides me: I am Jehovah, and there is none else" (Isa 45:5, 6). The God of the universe abides and has made Himself known unto all (Acts 17:22-31).

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, October 4, 2009

Front foyer: Jamie & Megan Little; Nancy Pond; Roberta Price

Back foyer: Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

Sunday, October 11, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro; Thomas Rathbun

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for your acts of kindness & concern for me & Jean during this time of her illness & rehab. We truly appreciate you! Glen & Jean Kelly

I would like to thank the church family at Beltline for all your many kindnesses and help during the final illness of my husband, Frank Garrett and for your continued support. In Christian love, Fauna Garrett

GOSPEL MEETING

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Mission Printing is 30 years old! There will be a celebration on **October 10th** from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the Mission Printing building at 2707 Medlin Dr. in Arlington. If interested, please contact Mary Carroll by October 1st at 817-792-3371 to let her know if you're able to bring a dish for a potluck lunch; if you are not able to supply food, they still welcome the attendance. Also, if you have photos or stories from the past, please bring those with you. See the letter on the bulletin board in the back foyer for more details.

LADIES

Ladies' class will meet on **Tuesday, October 6th** at 11:00 a.m. with a lesson by Joann Hatch on "The Illumination: God's Word is Light" & lunch.

THOSE TO SERVE IN OCTOBER

Lord's table (front): Mike Batot, Thomas Rathbun, Brandon Howard, James Gilliam, Rob Farmer, Denzil Myers, Stan Selby, Glen Kelly

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

p.m. Robert Ruckman, Bill Paschall

Card Pickup: a.m. Toby Howard, Curtis Vaughan **p.m.** Nathan & Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: Glen Kelly, Thomas Rathbun

Communion Preparers: Bobby & Mary Bowen

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Max Melton** will require shoulder surgery soon.

•**Leo Townsend** remains in Methodist/Dallas, room #4023 & is still having very hard difficulties.

•**Curtis Vaughan** is at home with the swine flu & is on Tamaflu.

- **Peggy Arnold** (Margaret Lewis' sister) is now home from the hospital recuperating.
- **Frank Bargainier** (of the N. Irving congregation) is now home recuperating.
- **Peyton Barnett** (the Fowler's great niece) is 3-1/2 months old & requires heart surgery scheduled for today (9/28).
- **Olivia & Erin Franklin** (Lotah's graddaughters) are both ill at home; Olivia has the swine flu & Erin has a severe sinus infection.
- **Louise Gierling's** (former member) cancer has returned; she is undergoing aggressive chemotherapy.
- **Gail Hieronymus** (Mike Garrison's daughter) is suffering with a serious health problems resulting from a torn esophagus.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Dessie Ross, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Judy Morris (Carolyn Montgomery's niece), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- October 4: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- Octobrr 4: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- October 6: Ladies' Bible Class & lunch at 11:00 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
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Mike Garrison

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Ephesians 2:11-22

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Thomas Rathbun
- Dean Webb

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Marvin Brown
Numbers 23:7-12

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

Ty Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Ty Harvey

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	94	102	93	125
A.M. Worship	161	160	156	210
P.M. Worship	76	72	86	112
Wed. Class	73	92	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	26	21	26	35
Contribution	\$5127	\$4775	\$5345	\$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