

April 28, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

May 4, 2008

a.m. *"What Singing Does To You"*

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

p.m. *"In the Spirit on the Lord's Day"*

Scripture: Revelation 1:9-11

Christians Are Motivated

Don Hatch

The heavenly minded Christian considers the commandments of the Lord and seeks things which are above (Col 3:2). Being where Christ is identifies the logical hope of heavenly-mindedness. A glorious destiny awaits the redeemed (2 Cor 5:1-10). Jesus as the perfect "Author" of eternal salvation is the basis for the Christians' affirmation. Jesus is the source of salvation and woven into the fabric of Christianity is a heavenly promise. Grace is an earthly exposure to the heavenly hope of eternal life. Knowing that Jesus is the access to hope, eternal life and to God, obedience is contemplated and embraces the entire scheme of salvation affording spiritual blessings by Christ (Eph 1:3-15). Christians are saved to engage in worthwhile earthly activities which glorify God (Eph 2:1-10). Those who have done well in the name of Jesus, though they be dead, will be resurrected to eternal life (Jn 5:28, 29). The motivation of God's grace, bringing salvation to all men, instructs us to deny ungodliness, worldly lust and to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Tit 2:11-13). Christians await the appearing of our Savior. Christians are motivated by a love for Jesus.

Obedience is reconciled with grace knowing that one never merits or achieves salvation upon one's own merit. Trust in Christ prepares the heart, soul and mind of man to obey and make the soul ready for fellowship with God through Christ. The end of faithful obedience is salvation full of unspeakable blessings (Jn 11:25; 1 Pet 1:8-10). Fundamentally faith cannot exist without life lived in obedience to the will of Christ (Jas 2:17-26). The faith which saves through Christ involves obedience and love (Gal 5:6). Enduring temptations, being approved of God and living faithfully gives rise to the promise of a "crown of life" (Jas 1:12; 2 Tim 4:1-5). It is obvious that those who love not are not properly motivated. Those who love, live in harmony with God's first and second commandments (Matt 22:34-40). Moreover, they comply with the "new commandment" of Christ to love as He loved first (Jn 13:31-35).

Principally the Bible stresses working, living, loving and being faithful. In the final analysis all will be judged upon their deeds (2 Cor 5:10; Rev 20:11-15). Giving an account for our lives is commonly taught throughout the New Testament (2 Tim 4:1-5). God is righteous and will judge according to righteousness (Rom 2:1-8). Those who are made new creatures, by being reconciled to God that they might become the righteousness of God in Christ, have the highest motivation known to man (2 Cor 5:17-21). If we call God our Father we need to pass our sojourn here with reverence and in awe of Him (1 Pet 1:17). Christians are called upon to have energetic lives and striving to enter into the narrow gate (Mat 7:13, 14). **Striving** is from the Greek word "agonizomai" meaning to agonize to enter the narrow gate while doing the will of the Father. There is a need to train and have stamina (1 Cor 9:23-27). Unremittingly Christians

diligently make their calling and election sure (2 Pet 1:3-11). **Diligence** is from the Greek word “spoude” meaning with earnestness, promptness, striving after to demonstrate an interest in the object of one’s affection.

Christians are motivated to be immovable, steadfast, unswerving and temperate because they labor for the Lord (1 Cor 15:57, 58; Col 3:24; Tit 3:8). Christians know that they are both temporal and spiritual. They believe that the eternal glory was established for their souls and they view life with thoughtful concern for the eternal blessings awaiting them. Significance in Christian living is that the momentary and transitory things are outweighed by the eternal. Christians exhibit awareness that the momentary problems of life are stepping stones to an eternal life.

Christians are motivated to love and serve others. Everything Christians do involves some kind of love and faith. The focal point of Christianity is to manifest a relationship with Christ and His disciples. Christians can not withhold love because they know they love a God whom they have not seen and must give love to those created in His image who they do see (1 Jn 3:17, 18; 4:20). Services rendered in Jesus, name unambiguously lead to eternal life (Mat 25:31-46). The graphic description of judgment is represented as being based upon actions taken to do deeds in the name of the Lord. Doing “to one of the least” is recognized as being moved to action by a love for God and man. Seeking the kingdom of heaven first Christians does for others (Matt 6:33).

To fulfill the law of Christ the spiritual bear burdens of others in a spirit of gentleness (Gal 6:1-5). By humbling themselves under the mighty hand of God Christians seek not their own glory but that which accumulates glory for God (Mat 5:16; Jas 4:10). It is an axiom that “God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble” (Jas 4:6). Christians seek the imperishable things of heaven through faith and love. Their loyalty is a living example of following Christ’s teachings (1 Cor 11:1; Phil 2:5). They know the difference of being entangled in the world and being blameless, harmless as children of God without blemishes in the midst of a crooked generation. Christians are motivated to be lights in the world, holding forth the word of life (Phil 2:15, 16). Having saved themselves by obeying from the heart the doctrine of Christ they labor to be an example of Christian living (Rom 6:15-18). Christ and the hope of glory is the Christian’s motivation (Col 1:27).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

"Therefore whoever hear these sayings of Mine, and does them, ...to a wise man who built his house on the rock:...Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand." {Matthew 7:24, 26} Jesus in bringing His great sermon to a close, talks about how two groups of people will receive His words.

One group will hear these faithful teachings of the Lord and apply them to their lives. Christ likens them to those who build their houses on rocks. Something that is tried, tested, and will withstand the storms that beat upon it. Life will beat upon us and try to buckle our knees. Yet, if

we follow the teachings of Christ, we can be sure that when the "storms of life" come, and they will come, we will survive them. We'll be stronger for the next onslaught Satan and the world throw at us as we struggle through life. This house is built upon a strong and enduring foundation.

Others will hear these teachings of our Lord, but will make no application to their lives. Christ likens them to folks who build their house on the sand. Something that is shaky, flimsy, and easily toppled. Life will also beat upon this "house." But the result will be quite different from the house built on the rock. The builders will buckle, they will become discouraged and distraught at the events of life. Many will turn and blame God for their difficulties. Instead of becoming stronger, they grow weaker. What happened? Life overcame them. To them life seems unhappy and not worth living. This foundation is weak and shifting and will not grow stronger. The house built on the sand will always be under fire.

It is conceivable that these two houses were made of the same building materials. Maybe even the same blueprint. Both were subject to the same tests of rain, flood, and wind. The foundation determines if your "house" stands. The quality and character of our spiritual lives will be clearly seen when the storms of life come into our lives. Upon which foundation is your spiritual house built? Are you applying the truth, or just hearing the words?

Have a Great Week!

~ Jerry

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

In The Blood Of The Lamb

The United States is a country of laws. Most people are aware of its unique legal system. Legal terms are litigant, plaintiff, prosecution, defense, plea, jury and verdict. The outcome of a trial is the verdict of "guilty or not guilty". In cases of being found guilty an appropriate punishment is rendered, innocence sets one free.

On the day of judgment we will be called before the judgment bar and judged on the things we did in the body (2 Cor 5:10; Mat 25:31-41). We appear before this judgment and the books will be opened (Rev 20:12). Our conduct will be evaluated and we shall receive reward or punishment according to our deeds.

The difference between an earthly and heavenly court is the sacrifice made for us. Those found innocent, because of the blood of Jesus, are acquitted. Our Savior pleads His blood as the agency for acquittal. Jesus' blood can cleanse all from sin. Are you in Christ (Gal 3:27)?

~ Don Hatch; article to appear in the May 2, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Ladies' ½ Day 2008 is now history! The will of our ladies to work toward this wonderful, spiritual feast came to fruition with great success.

To thank every individual in this small note is impossible, but you know who you are, and the Lord knows who you are, that made it all possible.

We do appreciate Sister Polly Cline for the enthusiasm, knowledge, and wisdom that she shared with us.

May God bless us all as we look forward to another great event in April 2009, the Lord willing.

Lovingly in Christ, Joann

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Front foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews; Thomas Rathbun, Max Melton

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Sunday, May 4, 2008

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman; Jamie & Megan Little

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

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 meet in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.

THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers, cards, prayers, & to all who attended the visitation & service for Bob. Bob has missed all of his Belt Line friends for the past few years, but he loved his church. In Christian love, Carl Lee Dodson & family.

LADIES

Be sure to check out the pictures of our ½ Day that are posted in the front foyer and in the hallway.

Also, please meet briefly in room #116 immediately after evening worship on **Sunday, May 4th** for a post – ½ Day meeting.

AREA MEETINGS

Hawn Freeway is holding their 7th Annual Bible Lectureship on **April 27-30** about “Unity Among the Saints”.

Dan Flournoy with the **Handley** congregation in Ft. Worth is teaching a Marriage & Family Enrichment Seminar on **May 2-4**.

Flyers with details on both are posted on the bulletin board in the back foyer.

WITH SYMPATHY

While caring for her mother, Debra Alonzo learned that her uncle, **Bill Houchen**, passed away. Services were held in Oklahoma.

Also to the family of Betty & Jimmy Douglass (former members) who lost a brother **Ronald Hood**. Ronald was the nephew of Linda Head & Billie Prince.

THOSE TO SERVE IN MAY

Lord's table (front): Brandon Thomason, Grady Fowler, Jerry Baker, Mike Garrison, Rob Farmer, Stan Selby, Derrol Allen, Marvin Brown

(back): Nathan Allen, JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Robert Bickel, Max Melton, Bill Paschall, Bobby Bowen, Roy Martin

p.m. Thomas Rathbun; Robert Ruckman

Card Pickup: a.m. Cole Howard, Curtis Vaughan

p.m. Scot Allen, Kenny Mayer

Contribution Counters: Ty Harvey, Mike Garrison

Communion Preparers: Ilene Ashworth, Mary Wise

PRAYER CONCERNS

- √ **Nancy Batot** was released from the hospital yesterday (4/27).
- √ **Melissa Beverly** will undergo surgery on May 5th at Harris/Southlake.
- √ **Bob Bingham** will have a biopsy done on his tongue on Thursday (5/1).
- √ **Bob Bradley** is seriously ill at home.
- √ **Charlene Carroll** is in Baylor/Irving, room #306, but expects to possibly go home today (4/28).
- √ **Janice Daniel** underwent successful shoulder surgery; she was released & is staying with Nancy Pond for now.
- √ **Lyda McAlister** is now home from the hospital & doing better.
- √ **Chad Mathews** hurt his leg in a soccer accident; doctor thinks it is just a bad sprain.
- √ **Georgia Meyer** is in rehab at Avante (formerly Pioneer Rehab) on Sowers Rd., room #207.
- √ **Billie Prince** expects to go home on Thursday (5/1).
- √ **Jan Smithson** is still ill at home.
- √ **Thomas West** had eye surgery, then developed complications from the anesthesia.
- √ **Jean Forbus** (Debra Alonzo's mother) had successful knee surgery last week.
- √ **Lisa Allred** (Carol Townsend's daughter) has been diagnosed with cancer.
- √ **Lance Allred** (Carol's grandson) is having health problems.
- √ **Marie Grice** (former member) broke her ankle. Her last sister has passed away.
- √ **Lewis Porter** (Marcella's brother) is doing well after his surgery.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Apr 27-30: Hawn Freeway Lectures

- May 2-4: Handley Marriage & Family Enrichment
- May 4: Ladies meet in room #116 after p.m. worship
- June: Summer Youth Series
- June 4-Aug 27: Wed. Night Summer Series
- June 16 – 18: Vacation Bible School
- July: Cisco Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Julie Roses

Sunday evening:

- Jamie Little

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Brandon Thomason
- Grady Fowler
- Jerry Baker
- Mike Garrison
- Rob Farmer
- Stan Selby
- Derrol Allen
- Marvin Brown

Rear Table

- Nathan Allen
- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Robert Bickel
- Max Melton
- Bill Paschall
- Bobby Bowen
- Roy Martin

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Garl Latham
- Ty Harvey

SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Colossians 3:12-17

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Jeremy Hardegree
- Robert Bickel

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Thomas Rathbun
- Robert Ruckman

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	88	97	125
A.M. Worship	168	157	169	210
P.M. Worship	100	94	93	112
Wed. Class	102	87	93	110
Ladies Bible Class	27	27	28	35
Contribution	\$4857	\$4314	\$5390	\$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