

October 25, 2010

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

October 31, 2010

a.m. *"The Blessedness of Obedience"*

Scripture: Hebrews 5:8, 9

p.m. *Fifth Sunday Singing*

Our God Made The Races

Don Hatch

Adam and Eve were the first humans. They were unique. Adam was created when God took the dust of the earth forming and breathing into him the breath of life. Eve was taken from his side. Both had the image of God within them and both were created to have free moral agency. They could and did make choices. Eve sinned first by being beguiled and taking of the forbidden fruit (1 Tim 2:8-15). The man also sinned. Thus, sin entered into the world (Gen 3:1-8). What **did mankind lose** because of the fall of Adam and Eve? **A comparison** of things before and after the fall gives a hint about the things which did not change and those which did change.

The fall of mankind did not alter the fact that man is a living soul or being created in the image of God (Gen 2:7; 3:17-24; 1 Cor 15:35-49). Man still has the image of God within him (Gen 1:27; 1 Cor 11:7; Mat 19:4). Man remained conscious of God, himself, the world and others (Gen 3:7-10; Gal 6:1-10; 1 Jn 2:15-17). Man remained under the law of God (Gen 2:16-18; Rom 8:1-39; Jas 1:25, 2:12). Man remains a responsible being (Gen 2:15-17; 3:9-19; Eph 4 & 5 & 6). Man has faith in God (Gen 2:16; Jn 14:1-5; Rom 10:1-17; Heb 11:1-6). Man continues to communicate with God (Gen 2:16-18; Heb 4:14-16; Mat 6:9-15). Man has dominion over the world (Gen 2:15; Psm 8:6). Man still works (Gen 2:15; 2 Thes 3:10). Man and woman still marry (Gen 2:15-25; Eph 5:22-33; Heb 13:1-4). Man still seeks to have fellowship with others. Man still has a mind, heart and soul (Mat 22:34-40). Man can reason, ponder, and think (Phil 4:8, 9). Reasoning power can be perverted, but normally an individual can reason. In man is the image of God remains (2 Cor 4:16-18; 1 Cor 11:7; Jas 3:9; Act 17:28-31). Man is moral recognizing responsibility and duty (Phil 2:12-18). He has eternity within himself (Eccl 3:11). Man worships (Jn 4:23; Col 2:8-19). Man remains a free moral agent. Time does not erode man's nature. He can make moral choices which will affect his destiny (Josh 24:14, 15; Phil 1:12-30). Man can still be tempted (1 Cor 10:13; Jas 1:12-18). Adam and Eve sinned but their sin cannot be passed to their children (Ezek 18:19, 20). Man is not deprave but he can sin and fall short of the grace of God (Rom 3:23). The mind, heart and will were misused in the fall, but that does mean sin cannot overcome through obedient faith (1 Jn 5:1-5; Rom 8:31-39). Man is the object of God's concern before and after the fall. Sin's effect on mankind is deadly but grace is more than equal to the task of saving mankind from sin (Eph 2:1-11). Sin did not take away man's ability to hear and obey God (1 Sam 15:17-23; Rom 10:1-17; 16:26).

Man lost innocence because of Adam and Eve sinning. Man lost paradise but will regain it if faithful unto death (Lk 16:19-31; Lk 23:43; Rev 2:10). Sin separated man from God, but Jesus bridged the gap (Is 59:1, 2; 1 Tim 1:15). Man will work and woman will endure pain in child birth (Gen 3:6-8). Her husband will have authority over her (Gen 3:9-23; 1 Cor 11:1-16). Man and woman were cut off from the tree of life (Gen 3:22-27; Rev 22:1-5). Mankind was lost, guilty of sin, separated from God and needed a Saviour (1 Cor 1:18-31; Rom 5:1-11).

Man needs to turn back to God, be converted by doing all things contained in the New Covenant. Conversion implies that mankind can return to fellowship with God (2 Cor 6:14-7:1; 5:18-20; 1 Tim 1:12-17). Each individual who is of the age of accountability is responsible for their actions. When those actions are contrary to the will of God they are called sin. Hence, a disobedient person becomes sinful or a sinner. God was not willing that any should perish in sin (Lk 13:35; Jn 3:15, 16; 2 Pet 3:9). Sinful mankind can escape Satan by being converted (Col 1:13-18; Eph 2:1-11). We are servants of whom we obey (Jn 8:31-34; Rom 6:15, 16). Mankind must hear and heed the voice of God. Refusal of God leaves mankind in a state of sin and unable to save themselves. God's plan from the foundation of the world was to redeem mankind from sin by the blood of Jesus Christ (Eph 1:3-15; Col 1:9-24). God through His agents [teachers, preachers, and church of Christ] teach mankind what they must do to be saved from their lost situation. The book of Acts is filled with conversions of sinners (Acts 2; 8; 9; 10; 16). Independence from God must be changed into a dependence upon God. Ruined mankind must return to God to receive grace and mercy (Eph 2:1-23). Only the knowledge of God and obedience can effect redeem for mankind (2 Pet 3:14-18). Believing, repenting, confessing Jesus as the Christ and being baptized into Him for the remission of sins are the first principles of the oracles of God (Lk 13:3; Acts 2:38; 8:37, 38; Heb 5:11-14). The fall of an individual is a result of sin and each must be converted to the ways of God.

The truth of God exists to contradict error. Dehumanizing and animalizing mankind is when the truth of God is changed into a lie (Rom 1:25). The fundamental issue before mankind is facing the problem of sin and conquering it (Gen 4). If the Bible and Christianity are thrown away God will still be here, but mankind will not have the necessary tools to be converted, nor can they save themselves from sin. It is **paramount** that the church of Christ survives and flourishes. It is **incumbent** upon her to remain faithful and teach the truth, which sets mankind free from sin and death (Eph 3:1-13). Mankind lost a great deal in the fall. Christ restores mankind to God when they are obedient. The gift of God is eternal life in Christ (Rom 6:23).

FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds

"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith". Gal.6:10.

Paul tells us plainly to help each other. We do that in many ways. When death comes to our loved ones and friends, we try to be considerate and console one another with cards, prayers, visits and expressions of sympathy. Many try to attend the funerals of our members and their families to help them bear their burdens. This congregation supports some of our less fortunate members with food from time to time and financial assistance. Belt Line Road church of Christ is well known for its support of many missionaries. We carry some of the financial burdens of many missionaries who are struggling in foreign countries to spread the gospel.

Our regular missionaries are assisted with monthly support and others on a one time basis. This is the time of the year that everyone starts looking at the new year's budget and we are no exception. Sometimes it is difficult to make decisions on how much support each one should receive. The elders compare and review the past expenses and contributions, then project what we think the future will be. We pray that our decisions are the best that we can do for the Lord and His work. Belt Line is to be commended for its generosity of spreading the gospel and for helping those in need. We have some who give above their normal contributions to be sure that those who are doing God's work have enough. We want all of our members to know that we are proud to shepherd a group of Christians who are truly concerned about fulfilling God's commands.

"Come now, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away". James 4:13-14.

James lets us know how temporary life is in this verse. We must spend the time we have preparing our souls for heaven. That is the reason God put us on this earth. As another birthday passes, I realize that each day is so precious. I'm excited about doing God's will and I'm trying to live each day as if it is my last, for that time is certainly coming. I rejoice in Christ because He has allowed me to be involved in the lives of missionaries around the world in visits and through the internet. My family has been blessed because of our commitment to Jesus Christ and because of God's mercy and grace.

"For we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. Now He who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord". 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

Are you really ready for heaven? God has prepared those who obey. Heaven must be our goal because nothing else really matters. Thank God for the blood of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, that sets us free from our sins.

~ Richard L. Renfro

"A CHRISTIAN'S GUIDE TO REFUTING MODERN ATHEISM"

The **Apologetic Press** provides an indispensable service to our brotherhood. Their literature on Christian Evidences has spanned several decades. Writing books in defense of the Bible seeks to prove the inspiration of God's word. It is important that good reference materials be available for Christians to read and use. Compromising the word of God is a tool that is used repeatedly. There are those who are willing to negotiate away the heritage of the Bible.

Watering down and willingness to give into “evolutionary teachings” is commonplace and looms as one of the most pressing problems of our times. Some wish the church of Christ to be nothing more than “another denomination”. The Church of Christ is not Jew, Catholic nor Protestant. Her heritage is a **Restoration of the Ancient Order**. Restoring first century Christianity comes about by using Bible words for Bible things and doing Bible things in Bible ways. Compromise comes in many forms. One serious compromise is over the **Genesis account**. **Theistic Evolution** is only atheistic without the “a”. There is no more despicable compromise than theistic evolution. Having capitulated, these have little faith in what God said and great faith in what man says. Theistic and Atheistic evolution deny verbal plenary inspiration of the Bible. Compromise has no place where God’s word is concerned.

Kyle Butt and Dan Baker engaged in a debate February 12, 2009. **Kyle Butt** is a member of the Apologetic Press staff. He is a graduate of Freed-Hardeman University. He has authored more than 20 books over the last decade. He is the editor of the **Discovery** magazine, a monthly periodical about Scripture and science for children third through sixth grades [we give these to our children, each month]. He debated **Dan Baker**, a former denominational minister who became an atheist in 1983. The debate was centered on the existence of God. This debate was on the campus of the University of South Carolina in Columbia. It was sponsored by the atheistic student organization known as the Pastafarian. It was a part of a *Darwin Day* event celebrating the 200th anniversary of *Origin of the Species*. Baker was “stunned” with the truth brother Butt presented. The time limits imposed upon the participants prevented brother Butt from presenting the total evidence on several points. Consequently, there are notes to the debate on DVD and in a new book, **“A Christian’s Guide To Refuting Modern Atheism”**. This book will provide the reader unique insights into the ways atheism can be soundly defeated on the subject “Is There A God?” It will be invaluable in light of the compromises and skepticism of our day. It is good that the atheist have a formidable individual that will debate the issue with such a commanding presence.

Debates are a means to present and refute, in a Christian manner, ***propositions*** on a variety of subjects. It is important that the aspects of this work be acknowledged. It underscores extremely important characteristics of Christian Evidences. The books which are produced from these debates are not lifeless ink on pages. They are the labors of energetic minds of real people. Those who debate the atheists must have patience and prudence. Brothers Dave Miller, Eric Lyons, Caleb Colley and Wayne Jackson recommend brother Butt’s book.

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, October 31, 2010

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman

Back foyer: Max Melton

Sunday, November 7, 2010

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

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 singing class will meet **Sunday** 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.

NEW ARRIVALS

New issues of the Gospel Minutes are available in the front foyer.

RESPONSE

Beverly Sweat asks for prayers to help her keep the faith of God in her heart; she's going through a difficult time.

LUBBOCK LECTURESHIP

We have books from the Lubbock Lectureship, "Walking in the Light", available for purchase; if interested, please see Don Hatch.

LADIES

Ladies' class will meet **Tuesday, November 2nd** at 11:00 a.m. with the lesson by Mary Martini followed by a luncheon.

WITH SYMPATHY

CD Hancock (Don's father) passed away last week in Odessa.

Floyd Scott (Max Melton's brother-in-law) passed away last Monday in Eules.

NEWS OF THE SICK

•**Melvin Armstrong** suffers with a cold.

•**Fauna Garrett** is in Baylor/Irving, room #452 with an infection.

•**Ruth Graham** is in Baylor/Irving, CCU & will probably go to the 5th floor rehab today.

•**Judy Hancock** is in Baylor/Irving, room #650.

·**Jack & Frances LaFerney** have an appointment with a new pain management doctor this week.

·**Carol Partridge** underwent hand surgery last week.

·**Maxine Prude** underwent some tests at HEB last Friday.

·**Janice Daniels' mother** is not doing well.

·**Erin Franklin** (Lotah's 5-year-old granddaughter) is home with a severe case of pneumonia.

·**Fauna Garrett's daughter & son-in-law** were slightly injured in a car accident.

·**Margie Mays** (Janice Daniels' friend) may have cancer.

CHRIST'S HAVEN

The Christ's Haven van will be picking up groceries on November 2nd; if you would like to participate, please take a bag with a list of items needed attached from the front & back foyers, fill them & bring them back to the building by this Sunday, October 31st.

CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Evelyn Armstrong, Erma Lee Baker, Bobby Bowen, Billie Gilliam, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Gail Hieronymus (Mike Garrison's daughter), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

DO NOT WORRY

"Then He said to His disciples, Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. ²³ Life is more than food, and the body *is more* than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O *you* of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also". ~ Luke 12:22-34

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- October 31: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- October 31: Singing class in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- November 2: Ladies' Bible Class at 11:00 a.m. with luncheon

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Thomas Rathbun
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Derrol Allen
- Bill Paschall
- Roy Martin
- Bobby England

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- John Mayer
- Denzil Myers

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Hebrews 5:8, 9

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Mike Batot
- Jerry McKey

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

P.M. SONG LEADER(S)

- Fifth Sunday Singing Schedule

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Marvin Brown
- Glen Kelly

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	83	125
A.M. Worship	150	145	148	210
P.M. Worship	74	72	78	112
Wed. Class	79	72	78	110
Ladies Bible Class	24	23	29	30
Contribution	\$4960	\$3891	\$5227	\$5433

MISSIONS

Charlie & Mary DiPalma - Malaysia

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 – Stephenville, TX

Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India

Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching

Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web

Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia

Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution

Terry & Pam Laurence – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation

Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India