

June 8, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

June 14, 2009

a.m. "*Self-keeping*"

Scripture: Jude 17-23

p.m. "*Understand Deity*"

Scripture: John 21:15-23

The Providence of God

Don Hatch

Deists and deism asserts that there is an intelligent Creator but denies that He providentially guides or intervenes in any way through the course of history and the destiny of man. God's concern in His providence is the maintenance and care over an independent and law-abiding world. The deistic belief removes from the biblical landscape incarnation of Christ, His resurrection, atonement, miracles, answer to prayers and countless other biblical doctrines. It makes no sense to call a person religious or Christian who teaches that God made it all and takes no further interest in what He has created. The essence of God is love for His creation, mercy for their missteps, generosity in the times of need, unceasing presence throughout the generations and plenteous purposes seen in planting, harvesting building up and plucking down, embracing and refraining from embracing and times for all things under heaven (Eccl 3:1-15). All of the great divine events like creation, deliverance of Noah during a worldwide flood, care of Moses, the children of Israel, united kingdom, return from bondage and the church of Christ would be meaningless and deniable under the doctrine of the deist.

Not everything performed by God is a miracle. Many things transpire because they have been planned from the foundation of the world (Eph 1:3-15). The favorable blessings bestowed upon the children of God are not miracles but rather divinely planned endorsement and aid (Jas 1:17; Eph 1:3). Recovery from illness, misfortune or adversity does not subscribe to the notion of it being a miracle but God's providence is calmly and loving working out the determinate council of God. God has worked miraculously in history and each miracle performed a unique role in God's eternal plan. However, He does not have to work miracles for us to see His divine will asserted and completed. Creation, salvation from the worldwide flood, feeding of Israel for forty years and other miracles did not set aside God's providence in childbearing, fruitful season of grain, vineyard and herds (Deut 27; 28). The process of salvation, because of the blood of Jesus, is not a miracle but man's obedience and God's grace. Supernatural feats are not needed today to prove God or His divine plans. Miracles produced faith but once there was complete revelation through inspiration (a miracle) there is no further need for miracles (Jude 3; 2 Tim 3:16, 17). Mankind can now find The Faith and live from faith unto faith (Rom 1:16, 17). The miracles of Jesus were for a reason (Jn 20:30, 31). Faith supplied by miraculous

bestowal of inspiration is no longer extant. Holy Spirit baptism was administered only by Jesus and was not reproduced in any time after the first century (Mat 3:11; Jn 1:33). The interposition of the Apostle's hand in order for first century believers to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit are no longer a part of the historical church of Christ (Acts 8:14-24; 1 Cor 14). The cessation of gifts of the Holy Spirit was clearly foretold (1 Cor 13:8-13; Acts 8:18). Truly all things which pertain to life and godliness have been revealed (2 Pet 1:3-11). The providence of God works in accord with the natural laws which God planted in the universe at the foundation of the world. His sovereignty is pronounced and verified in the natural and supernatural world. God's foresight is seen in His wisdom to preserve and govern the universe wherein His will is accomplished. Care, supervision and forethought are visible wherein God sees the future as easily as the past. This is the model for providence (2 Pet 3:8-15). The destiny of the world and all things therein is not a matter of fate or chance in an uncontrolled "throw of the dice" but rather all events are carefully monitored and governed. The elements of purpose and benevolence are mainstays of God's providence. God's providence has two interacting actions where the general and special activities take place. For His children God's special providence is caring for their needs as a Father (2 Cor 6:14-7:1). God hears and answers prayers of the saints (Jn 15:7; 1 Pet 3:12; Jas 5:16; 1 Jn 5:12-15). All such answers are worked out for the good of those who are called, justified and glorified through the foreknowledge of God (Rom 8:26-30).

God's actions are never in conflict with His laws. He is holy, righteous and pure. Therefore, His actions will always be consistent with these qualities. God will providentially encourage mankind to do that which is right (Jas 1:13, 14). Providence works toward the saving of mankind. Mankind has a freedom of will. Man is not depraved at birth but immoral because he has sins and falls short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23; 6:23). God does not coerce one to become good or evil. He can accomplish all in His will and purpose even when mankind is wicked [Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, Chaldea and Israel]. Even in the death of Jesus God accomplished His providential will. Because of Christ's death God opens doors for the church to voluntarily accomplish His will and thereby work out their own salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12-18). Miracles work in the realm of the supernatural but providence utilizes the direct and indirect natural laws. In providence God works behind the scenes. These acts of providence are verifiable, provable and observable. Prayers are answered not miraculously but providentially. Belief in providence determines one's attitude toward Christianity and the seeking of holiness. The Bible glorifies God as a God of providence. God is the God of history. Those who reverence Him serve Him.

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim 3:16-17). It is God's will that we should live the Christian life. He not only gives us a command and an example, but He also gives us power to live for Christ. One source of God's power is His Word as seen in the above scripture.

What are some facts concerning the Word of God? First it is divinely inspired. Verse 16 says that *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God..."* There should be no doubt in our minds

about this. The Word of God is also absolutely pure (Psa 12:6). If we contrast lying, deceit, blasphemy, and impurity of the words of men; God's Word has been tried in the furnace on earth. We also learn that it is the supreme authority. Jesus endorsed it: "It is written." We see this phrase used over 61 different times in the New Testament. We should be reminded what was said in Revelation 22:18-19: *"For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* Yes, God's Word is the supreme authority. We also recognize that it is eternally permanent. *"But the word of the LORD endures forever."* Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you" (1 Pet 1:25). What a wonderful truth that God's Word will always eternally exist. The problem with us is we are the ones who change and can make wise and unwise choices in life but God's Word never changes.

~ Jerry McKey

"...and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered unto him, We are Abraham's seed, and have never yet been in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Every one that committeth sin is the bondservant of sin (Jn 8:32-34).

"Know ye not, that to whom ye present yourselves as servants unto obedience, his servants ye are whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But thanks be to God, that, whereas ye were servants of sin, ye became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto ye were delivered; and being made free from sin, ye became servants of righteousness" (Rom 6:16-18)

Saviour of the World

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but prove the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not Jesus is not of God: and this is the spirit of the antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it cometh; and now it is in the world already. Ye are of God, my little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they as of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he who is not of God heareth us not. By this we know the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us, and his love is perfected in us: hereby we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit. And we have beheld and bear witness that the Father hath sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. Whosoever shall

confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God. And we know and have believed the love which God hath in us. God is love; and he that abideth in love abideth in God, and God abideth in him”.

The unique title of the Lord Jesus Christ is “Saviour of the World”. It assures us that the Son of God came from glory to a world lost in sin. He was not just a Messiah for Israel or King of the Jews. He was Saviour of the world. Salvation began in Israel and expanded to include all of mankind (Rom 1:16, 17). The gospel was first spoken to the Jews and included within a short time the entire world (Acts 10; 11; 15; Col 1:10-23).

This special title was used when the Samaritans came to know Jesus as He walked among them for two days. These people, mostly a mixture of Israeli and Gentile blood, came to see the wonder of God’s blessings for the nations (Jn 4:42). Progressively throughout the New Testament the term became synonymous with Jesus Christ’s dying on the cross and giving His life to save the world from sin (1 Tim 4:10; Acts 5:31; 13:23).

Mankind needs to know that Jesus came to save them from sin. They can be like the Samaritans and say "Now we believe . . . and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world" (Jn 4:42). The church of Christ’s mission is to tell of the saving grace and wonderful salvation found in Jesus (Eph 3:1-13). Jesus is the propitiation for our sins and for the whole world (1 Jn 2:1-5). Loving, serving and obeying the Lord will give courage to the faint of heart to tell the world of a Saviour and His grace. Jesus is the Saviour.

~ Don Hatch.

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, June 14, 2009

Front foyer: Robert & Betty Ruckman; Max Melton

Back foyer: Bill & Linda Matthews

Sunday, June 21, 2009

Front foyer: Richard & Carolyn Renfro

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

MENS' GATHERING/DEVOTIONAL

The **Monday morning** gathering will meet at 6:00 a.m. in the Annex.

SUMMERTIME PREACHING

Next Wednesday's lesson will be about "**Worship**" from John 4:24 by Brother Don Hatch.

SUMMER YOUTH SERIES

There will not be a trip on June 16th due to VBS.

COOKIES FOR VBS

If you are interested in contributing cookies for break time during VBS, please begin bringing them to the building.

NEW MEMBER

We are so happy to have **Beverly Sweat** as our new member. She lives at 3201 W. Walnut Hill Lane, #1002; Irving, 75038; phone: 214-650-4417. Welcome, Beverly!

PERRY COTHAM'S BOOK

Several of Perry's books were taken without payment having been received. If you owe for the book, please bring payment to either Don or Letitia. Thank you!

LADIES

Please bring your favorite recipes to contribute to a project to be completed next Spring & give them to Beverly McKey. The sooner, the better. Thank you!

BABY SHOWER

A baby shower is planned for Brandon & Kenica Thomason this **Saturday, June 13th** in the Annex from 2pm – 4pm, come & go. They are registered at Babies-R-Us and Target.

WITH GRATITUDE

A HUGE '**thank you**' to this group of dedicated workers for helping in our advertising efforts for VBS last Saturday: Darrell, Kayla, Nathan, Scot Allen; Ilene Ashworth; Mike Batot; Myron Goins; Sandy Hall; Ty & Samantha Harvey; Don & Joann Hatch; Glen Kelly; Jerry McKey; Nancy Pond; Roberta Price; Richard Renfro; Stan & Doris Selby; Beverly Sweat; Robert & Cathy Taylor.

By the way, we received a call first thing Monday morning from a lady who wanted to sign her two little girls up for VBS. The seed has been planted!

WITH SYMPATHY

Michelle Farmer's grandfather passed away & services were held last week. The Farmers were back in worship yesterday.

Also, former member & deacon of Belt Line, Ray Reames, passed away Sunday evening just before worship. Information is pending as of this writing.

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Gwen Bingham** is in Las Colinas Medical, room #212 with a broken hip.
- **Grady Fowler** is struggling with pain in the aftermath of surgery.
- **Elsie Nanney** is in Baylor/Irving, room #551 for rehab.
- **Mary Lou Tibbetts** is recuperating at home.
- **David McDaniel** (Elizabeth Garrison's brother) is also now at home.
- **Nola Wolfe** has been ill at home.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Charlie & Mary DiPalma (missionaries), Glen Elmore (elderly father of a friend of Garl Latham), Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Louise Gierling (former member Tom Gierling's mother), Linda Woodruff (the Webb's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- June 13: Baby shower for the Thomason's
- June 14: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- June 14: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- June 16: No Summer Youth Series
- June 15-17: Vacation Bible School
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Mike Batot
- Thomas Rathbun
- James Gilliam
- Brandon Howard
- Rob Farmer
- Denzil Myers
- Grady Fowler
- Stan Selby

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Roy Martin
- Derrol Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Jerry McKey
- Henry Seidmeyer
- Mike Garrison

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Bill Matthews
Mark 11:12-26

A.M. SONG LEADER

- Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Thomas Rathbun
- John 21:15-23

P.M. SONG LEADER

- Jerry Baker

LORD’S TABLE/EVENING

- Robert Ruckman
- Bill Paschall

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	90	91	92	125
A.M. Worship	173	165	156	210
P.M. Worship	76	94	87	112
Wed. Class	84	86	81	110
Ladies Bible Class	-	-	30	35
Contribution	\$5943	\$5052	\$5395	\$5474

MISSIONS

- Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
- Willie 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