

February 11, 2008

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

February 17, 2008

a.m. *"Never Man So Spake "*

Scripture: John 7:45-52

p.m. *"Fidelity Has Its Rewards"*

Scripture: Revelation 2:1-7

This Man Disturbed People

Don Hatch

The books of the Bible, as we know them, are genuine. They have existed over millenniums and were commonly received by Jesus Christ, referred to by the Jews as sacred books of their religion and handed down in the Christian faith without materially being corrupted, falsified or altered from the time of their authorship. Thus, they hold enormous sway over what one believes about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and Christianity. No reliable contradiction to their authenticity has been advanced. The genuineness of these writings admits no doubt and is readily proved to be more worthy than any ancient document. A rule of proper repository or custodial care bears upon this statement. In the Bible there is no evidence of it being a forgery. The law presumes it authentic and genuine until proven otherwise. Any who oppose the Bible must be able to present evidence that it is a forgery. None have presented a satisfactory case to this day. The burden of proof is upon them to prove the Bible a forgery. Documents offered as evidence in a court are scrutinized carefully. If the document has been under appropriate custody and is found in the right repository, under the care of the suitable persons with whom such writings might naturally and reasonably be expected to have them, they are therefore considered authentic. Documents in the proper custody bearing no evidence of forgery are considered genuine and permitted to be offered in evidence by a court of law. Unless the opposing party can develop proof to impeach them they stand as a basis for the defense of a certain way of life. The burden of proving them false or invalid is to be passed to the opposing party. The law presumes that every man is innocent until proven guilty. This charity must be offered to the Bible. With all things being done in fairness and legality, the Bible until proved otherwise, has the marks of authenticity, genuineness and is no forgery.

The sacred writings have been in the possession of individuals of the faith from the beginning. They are found in the place where they ought to be. They are found in the familiar surroundings of Christians. They are well-known to the Christian. They are the standard for the faith of Christians. There is no pretense that they came by any other means than the hands of inspired writers. The New Testament documents bear identification of its writers, who were themselves Christians. They were made public shortly after the inspired penmen completed them. Copies were made and there is no statement offered that they were edited. If the originals were lost the copies came to bear the same authority as the originals. The multiplication of copies only heightens the proof of the Bible's authenticity. In a court of law those who hold such a document in their custody must be conversant with the material. The community of believers has

consistently relied upon the Bible for their belief and practice. The Bible has been in familiar use by churches from the time the text was first penned. They have been watched over with vigilance and have been a source of authority for all practices. The church cannot act under any other authority. It is the objector who shows themselves to be spurious.

Jesus Christ used the Old Testament Law, Prophets and Psalms as proof that He was the Messiah. Materially those who opposed this sought to destroy Him. Jesus' actions, words and miracles were constantly scrutinized by those unfavorable toward Him. With craftiness His rivals tried to find a way or means to accuse Him. Jesus taught openly assuring all that He was no insurrectionist, anarchist nor did He seek to be anything other than a righteous man.

The Jewish leaders were masters of form and knew how to appear to honor justice while mocking it. An axiom of the Jews was that all were considered innocent until proven guilty. No one could be tried and convicted in the absence of proof. It was the duty of the court to have witnesses to accuse. All evidence which would acquit Jesus was required to be presented. In cases of capital charges if evidence could not be presented the defendant was set free immediately. Witnesses for Jesus should have been presented, none were. The court from the beginning sought to condemn Him. They could not make capital charges against Him from the Law. The results had been previously pronounced by Caiaphas, "one must die for the nation" (Jn 12:47-53). Hostile witnesses were sought and false ones were used to condemn Jesus. The charges of false doctrine and seditious language were made, none was found true. He was accused of deceiving the people and exciting them against the Law of Moses. Such was false. Jesus disturbed them (Lk 23:1-7)!

The most disturbing thing about Jesus was His quality of life which made sinful men look at themselves. Like the brilliance of the sun, showing dirt on a window-pane, the radiance of Jesus revealed man's imperfections (Lk 5:8). Evaluating one's life against Jesus brings into view one's own unworthiness. Jesus disturbed people with His astonishing teachings. His word set mankind to thinking of purity and not vice. Jesus disturbed people when He showed their tattered piety. He disturbed them because of His demands for righteousness to prevail in their lives. He disturbed them because He used book, chapter and verse for His teachings. Jesus still disturbs sinful men. The disturbance can be removed by faithful obedience to Christ. He saves sinful men. Learn to love the Savior!

FAMILY CARE

A Message From Our Shepherds

We are so blessed at Belt Line to have so many wonderful and dedicated Christians at work for the Lord. Everyone is busy about pleasing the Lord. The past few months have been exceptionally active for many, wanting to do extra for our God. Virgil LaFerney has spent many hours upgrading our computer system and integrating our new digital internet service. We all know how complicated computers can become. We also thank Jack and Frances La Ferney for assisting in this effort. Our missionaries are grateful to Doyle and Shirley Graham, Mike and

Nancy Batot, Billie Beverly, & Melvin and Evelyn Armstrong for their recent financial gifts. Many others freely give without the knowledge of the elders. God blesses a cheerful giver.

In the past, J.C. and Dessie Ross & Robert and Cathy Taylor have set a high standard of taking care of our building, better than their own homes. Mike and Elizabeth Garrison have kept that tradition faithfully. Mike has been instrumental in the following works above his job description as a custodian: assisting in the replacement of the pump and the hot water heater for our baptistery, the replacement of the hot water heater and the refrigerator for the communion preparation room, and the repair and replacement of several commodes throughout our building. The daily maintenance of a fifty year old building is a formable task. We are thankful that Mike is very experienced and skillful. Don Hatch and Letitia Beverly have gone out of their normal scope of work to see that many of these projects were done in a coordinated and efficient manner. Don assisted in the replacement of the main boiler pump this week. Sometimes you may see him with Glen Kelly and Mike Garrison on top of the building, repairing the roof. You may also see Denzil Myers cutting the hedges and helping to beautify our yard. Letitia has spent a lot of her own time in updating the computer and installing a new office printer and a new copier for the office. Bill Matthews has been a tremendous help in getting the new printer and reinstalling the old printer to the library. Bill has cleaned up the sound room by taking an inventory and removing those items that are antiquated and repairing those that are still usable. He setup our new CD burner and duplicator. This week he plans to repair our overhead projector and get a new one as well. He asks that you notify the office if you know anything about the 1976 Winston-Salem, NC mission trip.

Darrel Allen has become the third member of the board of Mission Printing to represent the Belt Line congregation along with Roy Thomas and myself. Welcome aboard, Darrell. As board members, we prayerfully consider the future of the Mission Printing effort of providing the Gospel throughout the world. Please help us by working in the Jr. Auditorium on Sunday afternoons to compile the tracts. See Dorris Walker or Dean Webb if you would like more information. This is an excellent opportunity to spread the Word of God. Thank you to all who help in this effort now and in the future. Because of limited space, I apologize to all of you whom I failed to mention for your good works to the Lord. James 1:25, "But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does."

~Richard Renfro

SOWING THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN IN 2008

Praise God For Every Blessing

Andrew Fletcher said, "Give me the making of the songs of a nation, and I care not for who makes its laws". The power of music is unquestionably profound. On Pike's Peak stands a plaque with the words of "America" [Katharine Bates] "O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountains majesty, above the fruited plains! America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown the good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea! O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern impassioned stress a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law! May God thy gold refine, till all success is nobleness and every gain divine..." God has blessed us! In worship we honor and praise Him.

~Don Hatch; article to appear in the February 15, 2008 issue of the Dallas Morning News

Sacred songs are labors of love on the part of lyricists and musical score. They are sent out with a fervent desire that their songs may endure over a long time in the services of saints helping them to lift their voices in praise to Almighty God. God's people are spiritually unified when singing spiritual songs as they strive to worship Him in spirit and truth. Songs are designed to assist congregations in glorifying God. They offer purpose and direction for worshipers by bringing them into a closer fellowship with one another and God. They are sent forth to express within the sphere of spiritual worship to deepen love for God and fellowman. There are over 900 songs books which are used around the world. Spiritually serviceable songs which can be sung become the most beloved of all. Those with melodiously, harmonious words and music have great potential to bless by sustaining the souls of saints. Only by regular exposure to hymns and time set aside to learn new songs will the reservoir of precious memories be filled. God's people lifting their voices in "a cappella" singing are vibrantly wholesome. Congregations' greatest power is in true vocal music. Vocal music is one of the most powerful influences known in Christian worship. The church uses New Testament principles to seek approval of God in its worship. Good singing inspires, comforts, cheers and fills the heart with peace.

~Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, February 17, 2008

Front foyer: Ilene Ashworth, Carol Swinney, Megan Little, Megan McNeely

Back foyer: Paul & Bernice Guisinger

Sunday, February 24, 2008

Front foyer: Bob & Gwen Bingham; Max Melton

Back foyer: JC & Dessie Ross

Family News:

MISSION PRINTING

Mission Printing will meet **Sunday** at 4:00 p.m. in the Jr. Auditorium. We need more volunteers; please see Dorris Walker for more information.

MEN'S 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.

LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet **Tuesday, February 19th** at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex.

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to **Darrell Allen** for becoming a member of the board for Mission Printing. Way to go, Darrell!

FAREWELL TO THE DONLEY'S

Time is drawing nigh for the Donley's to make their move to Austin. Please join us on **Sunday evening, February 24th** in the Annex immediately following worship for a farewell reception. Cake & beverages will be provided, so please bring your favorite finger food (sandwiches, chips, dip, etc.) & a tissue as we wish them well.

39ers

The monthly get-together is scheduled for **Monday, February 18th** at 6:30 p.m. in the Annex. Bring your favorite dish & enjoy the fellowship.

Also, mark your calendar for **Saturday, March 8th** at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex for "Breakfast with the Teens". This is always a wonderful time & we so appreciate our Teens as well as Darrell, John, & Ty for their hard work & commitment to the Lord. Make plans to join the fun!

DIRECTORY CHANGES

The Prudes have a new phone number: 972-471-1100.

The England's have moved: 3034 Lela St.; 75061.

Jamie & Megan Little: 8604 Valley Ranch Pkwy. #2009; 75063. Megan: 214-213-0219; Jamie: 469-586-9547.

THANK YOU

Becky & I want to thank you all for the cards & phone calls wishing me well. Also for your love & concern, but mostly we appreciate your prayers. It's so wonderful to be a member of such a caring & loving congregation as you. Love, Hank Henry

PRAYER CONCERNS

√**BC Fowler** is very ill; she may be admitted to the hospital at the time of this writing.

√**Jean Haddock** will undergo surgery for 2 stints on Thursday (2/14).

√**Denzil Myers** was able to be in worship yesterday.

√**Georgia Myers** is back at Northgate Plaza, room #105A.

√**The Prude's** were able to be in worship yesterday.

√**Amber Vaughan** has been ill at home.

√**Mary Wise** has been ill at home with the flu.

√**Ema Lee Martin** (Elizabeth Garrison's sister) is in Arlington Memorial with a broken hip.

√**Bill Montgomery** (Carolyn's husband) will undergo surgery tomorrow (2/12).

√**Bill Roses** (Polly's husband) has been diagnosed with cancer & will need another surgery soon.

√**Barbara Watson** (Carol Swinney's sister-in-law) was also taken to the ER on Friday.

Continue to remember those who are recuperating or suffering with long-term illnesses, including: Bob Bradley, Fauna Garrett, Don & Judy Hancock, Frances LaFerney, Garldean Latham, Frances Tipton, Thomas West, Bran Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Paul Batot (Mike's dad), Shirley Bryant (James Gilliam's sister), Vern Daniel (Janice's son) Frank Garrett (Fauna's husband), Elizabeth Oliver (Becky Henry's sister), Nell Rogers (Carol Swinney's sister), Nita Spencer (the Webb's niece), Chelsea Sutton (the Garrison's granddaughter), Lewis Tomlinson (Nelda Bell Newton's son), Larry Toye, & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- Feb 18 – 39er's dinner in the Annex at 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 19 – Ladies' Bible Class at 9:30 a.m. in the Annex
- Feb 24 – Farewell to the Donley's in the Annex after p.m. worship
- Mar 8 – 39er's breakfast with the Teens in the Annex at 9 a.m.
- June 15 – Family Bible School

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Mary Bowen

Sunday evening:

- Jamie Little

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Grady Fowler
- Dorris Walker
- Glen Kelly
- John Mayer
- James Gilliam
- Stan Selby
- Ron Baker
- Robert Ruckman

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Max Melton
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Robert Taylor
- Harold Head
- Bobby Bowen
- Roy Martin
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- Rob Farmer
- Garl Latham

SCRIPTURE READING

- Jerry Baker
- John 7:45-52

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

- Stan Selby
- Max Melton

LORD'S TABLE/EVENING

- Jerry Baker
- Bill Matthews

COMMUNION TO SHUT-INS

- Ron Baker

FOR THE RECORD: WEEK ENDING ATTENDANCE & BUDGET

	<u>Last Week</u>	<u>This Week</u>	<u>YTD Avg.</u>	<u>Goal</u>
Sun. Class	92	90	98	125
A.M. Worship	167	154	170	210
P.M. Worship	98	80	94	112
Wed. Class	95	95	93	110
Ladies Bible Class	26	22	28	35
Contribution	\$5947	\$5652	\$5646	\$5400

MISSIONS

Gary Workman – Ukraine
21st Century Global Missions
Charlie & Mary DiPalma - India
Roland & Rose Mohsen – France
JB & Ivy Paul – Bitragunta, India
Glen & KuinTattersall – Australia
Ian McPherson – Tasmania Australia
Oleg & Natasha Yakimenko - Russia
Chennai Teacher Training School - India
Wil & Telanda Sadler – Military Missions
Christ’s Haven Children’s Home - Keller, TX
Foster’s Home for Children – Stephenville, TX
Wayne Jackson – Christian Courier on the Web
Ted Lingren - Sisophon Bible School – Cambodia
Mission Printing Worldwide Literature Distribution
Terry Laurence – Bear Valley School of Preaching