

**April 5, 2010**

## **SERMONS FOR SUNDAY**

**April 11, 2010**

a.m. "*Saving and Instructing Grace*"

Scripture: Titus 2:4-15

p.m. "*The Crowned Saviour*"

Scripture: Luke 24:50-53

### **Evidence In Favor**

Don Hatch

**There are three lines** of evidence in favor of Christianity. When combined they present a conclusive and irrefutable bulwark in defence of Christianity. The *Oral Traditions* and *Written Documents* passed down over centuries of activities are not hearsay and have the weight of being convincing evidence. Peter said, that he and others did not follow cunningly devised fable, making known the power of the Lord Jesus. He said that he and others were *eyewitnesses* of Christ's majesty and excellent glory. Moreover, they heard a voice from heaven tell them that Jesus was the beloved Son of God. The Apostles of Christ spoke of being with Christ during His ministry, seeing His miracles, hearing His sermons and lessons. In particular they saw His transfiguration and a voice that said "This is my beloved Son" (Mat 17:1-5). This was not a fable or hallucination, but rather divinely sent to convince them that God's plan of salvation was being fulfilled. They were eyewitnesses of the truth. Peter said, "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Pet 1:16) .

**Some deny the truth** of the New Testament and call it unconfirmed reports. In accepting evidence there is always a **collaboration** of the witnesses. In the New Testament all witnesses agree. Scientists say light travels at 186,000 miles a second. We have never seen the experiment but believe the witnesses. It could be called hearsay. We know that there are sunken ships in the waters off from Norway that are over 600 years old and in good shape. Hearsay or do we believe the witnesses? We rest on the assurance of those we trust. Ninety-nine percent of our information is given to us by witnesses and unless there are reasons to dispute the information it will pass as truth. John said that from the beginning of the gospel he had seen, heard, beheld and touched Jesus Christ and was a witness to declare what had been manifested concerning salvation (1 Jn 1:1-4). John wrote this and it was collaborated by other eyewitnesses. This was submitted as a body of testimony for reasonable people to consider. In any court of law no just person would refute it. What was orally given and then written in the New Testament has been confirmed.

**Secondly the scriptures** are a form of evidence within themselves. Holy men spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit to speak and write (2 Pet 1:20, 21). The fact that written

Scriptures are “more sure,” than oral testimony, is a basis for ultimate authority. It is obvious that there is a final criterion for truth. In **Weights and Measurements** in Washington there are yards, feet, inches, pounds and tons with all the measurements standardized. God did not set the church adrift without a standard. A trustworthy standard is the only means to arrive at religious purity. Such is the only rational conclusion. The Scriptures were intended to be ultimate and infallible as a rule of faith. Universally Scriptures have the endorsement by the church. The Apostles of Christ confirmed their faith in the written text because they were moved by the Holy Spirit to write what was given by inspiration. If this means anything it means that they produced a document guided by Divinity. Moreover, the Scriptures were not of private interpretation, meaning that no man could put his interpretation on them. Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. The chancellor of Queen Candace wanted to know what the Scriptures meant. Phillip guided by the Holy Spirit, told him it was talking about Jesus (Act 8). Phillip said the Scriptures could only be interpreted one way. Modernists who rewrite the Scriptures are deceptive and blasphemous. Their intent is to undermine the truth of the gospel of Christ and change the completion of the Church of Christ.

**There is Personal evidence** given by the Christian in the time of the Scriptures being written as a lamp unto our way. The final confirmation of what was written came as men and women were actively involved in the daily progress of Christianity. They could vouchsafe what was written about them and others. The story of the woman at the well is verified by those who returned with her saying, “...and they said to the woman, now we believe, not because of thy speaking: for we have heard for ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.” (Jn 4:42). They were convinced by personal experience.

**It is evident** that with respect to spiritual truth the Bible is invincible. Hearsay is not infallible; personal experience is confined to the evidence of a single soul; but the Scriptures are the final court of appeal because they speak with authority. Within the Bible there are no “ifs” or “perhaps” when it talks of immortality of the soul and how one obtains it. No one wants to guess about such a major subject. The Bible removes all guesses. It emphatically states Jesus brought to light life and immortality (2 Tim 1:10). The proof of immortality is Jesus Christ. He died on a Roman cross, was buried in a borrowed sepulcher where He remained three days, arose on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father (Act 1:10-14; Rom 1:1-6). Those who witnessed this were told He is coming again. Christianity has maintained this hope and will remain faithful to the teachings of this risen Christ until He comes (1 Thess 4:13-18; 2 Tim 4:1-6). The empty tomb takes away all “ifs” or “doubts”. God’s word has proved steadfast and faithful. The evidence is in favor of Christianity. It is true!

## **FAMILY CARE: A Message from Our Shepherds**

God wants us to pray (I Tim.2:8), coming boldly before Him (Heb.4:16). He says pray in faith and assurance (James 1:6-8) and full trust in Him (Eph.3:20-21). We should pray to God the Father, glorifying His name by thanking Him for every good gift and making our requests known to Him through the name of Jesus Christ. God answers prayer according to His will (Acts 21:14), sometimes it is a negative answer, sometimes it is delayed, sometimes even different than what we asked, but sometimes exactly what we want and many times more than we asked. We at Mission Printing prayed for the \$3 per pound postage costs be reduced back to the former \$1. The large increase was going to cripple our efforts to reach the lost with the

printed word. God answered our prayer with a \$.30 per pound through a different means of shipping. God always knows best. We need to increase our prayer life each day. We are to 'pray without ceasing'. We should become more detailed in our prayers. Don't be afraid to pray for people by name and circumstances. We should pray for our sick, Everett Newton, Billie Gilliam, Judy Hancock and Jack LaFerney. Give thanks to God that Lyda McAlister, Frances LaFerney and Evelyn Armstrong were blessed to be in worship with us Sunday. We should pray for our bereaved, Dana Hodgkins in the loss of her husband. Pray for our missionaries, especially Charlie and Mary DiPalma, Wil and Telanda Sadler as they endured some difficult health situations. Pray that God will help Roland and Rose Mohsen regain some of their financial support they lost. Pray for Willie Gley in Ghana, Oleg Yakimenko in Russia, Ted Lingren in Cambodia, Glen Tattersall in Tasmania, Dennis Johnson in India, Gary Workman in Ukraine, Terry Laurence in the Navajo Nation and Ian McPherson in Australia to be blessed with many souls to teach and preach and convert to Jesus Christ. Pray that Dan Keele will be successful as a preacher as we help him through Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver.

Pray for the upcoming Ladies Half Day, the Wednesday night summer series and Vacation Bible School to be successful in reaching lost souls and strengthening our members. Much prayer will make your life better and help this congregation be stronger in the Lord.  
Richard Renfro

“Rejoice in the Lord always: again I will say, Rejoice. Let your forbearance be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honorable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. The things which ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you” (Phil 4:14-9)

### **Speaking Truth in Love**

“I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to walk worthily of the calling wherewith ye were called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; giving diligence to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as also ye were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, and through all, and in all. But unto each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, When he ascended on high, he led captivity captive, And gave gifts unto men. (Now this, He ascended, what is it but that he also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some to be apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ: till we all attain unto the unity of the faith, and of the

knowledge of the Son of God, unto a fullgrown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: that we may be no longer children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error; but speaking truth in love, we may grow up in all things into him, who is the head, even Christ; from whom all the body fitly framed and knit together through that which every joint supplieth, according to the working in due measure of each several part, maketh the increase of the body unto the building up of itself in love" (Eph 4:1-16).

Christians should be "sticklers for doctrine" maintaining an attitude of lovingkindness mingled with meekness and mercy (2 Pet 3:15). Holding the sound doctrine and being abrasive is contradictive. Defending the truth in love does not mean that we cannot have the courage of convictions. Paul confronted another Apostle, because of Peter's "dissimulation", which was contrary to sound doctrine (Gal 2:11-12). Manifesting Christian love is seeking to have the individual embrace fully the doctrine of Christ on any matter. Integrity is never for sale nor is the spirit of gentleness (Gal 5:1-4). Those overtaken in a trespass should be restored in a spirit of gentleness, lest the one doing the reproving be tempted. God is not mocked, whatsoever a man sows he will also reap. Doing good is never a wearisome task. Opportunities abound for the spiritual individual to help the faint of heart.

The Christian will find times to build up the body of Christ in kind and generous ways. The object of teaching is to see the church obtain a measure of stature in the fullness of Christ. Speaking the truth in love is a measured cadence of teaching wherein the new born babe in Christ is given the sincere milk of the word and the maturing are granted the meat of the word (1 Pet 2:1-4; Heb 5:11-14). One cannot really do the truth or teach the truth without manifesting love (Jn 13:31-35). Love does not rejoice in unrighteousness (1 Cor 13:6). Hence the Christian maintains equilibrium by "speaking the truth in love". Let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

Don Hatch

## **GREETER ASSIGNMENTS**

### **Sunday, April 11, 2010**

**Front foyer:** Bill & Linda Matthews; Jamie & Megan Little

**Back foyer:** Robert & Cathy Taylor

### **Sunday, April 18, 2010**

**Front foyer:** Robert & Betty Ruckman

**Back foyer:** Mike & Elizabeth Garrison

## **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.

### LADIES

Ladies' Bible Class will meet on **April 13<sup>th</sup>** at 9:30 a.m. with a lesson by Ilene Ashworth about Compassion/Mercy.

### LADIES' ½ DAY

There are signup sheets in the foyer if you would like to participate in Ladies' ½ Day; cookbooks will be distributed on that day.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

We're gearing up for Vacation Bible School **June 14-16<sup>th</sup>** with the theme on the Prophets. Get the word out to your friends & neighbors & invite them to come.

### WORK DAY

The Teens have set aside **Saturday, May 1<sup>st</sup>** as a work day; please contact Darrell Allen if you have a need.

### THANK YOU

Mission Printing would like to thank Jerry McKey, Darrell, Nathan, & Scot Allen for removing the carpet on Saturday.

### BIRTHDAY LIST

Updated birthday lists are available in both foyers; please take one.

### PHONE DIRECTORY

New phone directories are also available in both foyers.

### GOSPEL MEETING

The Rowlett Church of Christ is hosting a meeting **April 11-14** by Marvin Weir of Paris, Texas on preparing to meet God. See the back foyer bulletin board for more information.

### NEWS OF THE SICK

- Evelyn Armstrong** is now home.
- Erma Lee Baker** is also now home.
- Hank Henry** has been diagnosed with congestive heart failure.
- Jesse Lee Caskey** (wife of Mission Printing's founder) successfully underwent another surgery.
- Jack Cooley** (Jan Smithson's twin brother) did not need surgery.
- Erik Horn** (Marinell Zaun's grandson) is in a Sugarland hospital with diabetic complications.
- Bobby Jones** (friend of Dean Webb) has been diagnosed with leukemia.
- Telanda Sadler** (missionary for the Military) may have cancer; test results are pending.
- Cathy Workman** (Gary's daughter-in-law) is battling cancer.

### CONTINUOUS PRAYER CONCERNS:

Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Jean Kelly, Jack & Frances LaFerney, Gardean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Jan Smithson, Leo Townsend, Thomas West, Brenda Alsup (Lotah Franklin's friend), Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Johnny Williams (Bobbie's son).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### **Be sure and mark your calendar -**

- April 11: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- April 11: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- April 13: Ladies' Bible class at 9:30 a.m.
- April 24: Ladies' ½ Day
- May 1: Youth Work Day
- June 2: Begins Summertime Series
- June 14-16: Vacation Bible School

### LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

#### Front Table

- Mike Batot
- James Gilliam
- Denzil Myers
- Stan Selby
- Jerry Baker
- Marvin Brown
- Rob Farmer
- Scott Price

#### Rear Table

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

### SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Richard Renfro
- John Mayer
- Jerry McKey

### A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Darrell Allen  
Titus 2:4-15

### A.M. SONG LEADER

- Garl Latham

**SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS**

- Thomas Rathbun
- Stan Selby

**P.M. SCRIPTURE READING**

- Bill Matthews
- Luke 24:50-53

**P.M. SONG LEADER(S)**

- Jerry Baker

**LORD'S TABLE/EVENING**

- Glen Kelly
- Bill Paschall

**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	85	74	82	125
A.M. Worship	140	165	145	210
P.M. Worship	80	77	76	112
Wed. Class	78	67	76	110
Ladies Bible Class	18	27	28	35
Contribution	\$5601	\$6990	\$5459	\$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 – Stephenille, TX
- Bitragunta Church of Christ, Bitragunta, India
- Dan Keele – Bear Valley School of Preaching
- 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 – Ft. Defiance, Arizona – Navajo Nation
- Dennis & Beth Johnson - Chennai Teacher Training School – India