

April 27, 2009

SERMONS FOR SUNDAY

May 3, 2009

a.m. *"Come With Us"*

Scripture: Numbers 10:29-36

p.m. *"Human Anxiety and Divine Care"*

Scripture: 1 Peter 5:1-11

Grace of God

Don Hatch

Salvation from instigation to accomplishment is associated with the Gospel. Righteousness, sanctification and redemption serve as sentinels and guideposts to remind us that there was a cost inherent in salvation. Jesus Christ died to offer His blood on sinful man's behalf (Heb 9:23-28; Rom 5:1-10; 2 Cor 5:20). Grace is bestowed because one is found to be in favor with God (Gen 6:8; Rev 22:21). Grace dominates the scriptures as an evangelistic theme. Grace makes sinners see that God is gracious and caring about their souls. Grace removes absolutely any doubt that God does not always have man's welfare foremost in His will. Grace signifies the Bible concept of what is a saint and a sinner, who are the redeemed and the lost and who are children of God and children of the Devil (Jn 8:31-59).

Grace is having the riches of heaven at the expense of Christ's death on the cross. The plan of God from before the foundations of the world was to save man by grace (Eph 1:3-15; 2:1-10). Grace is a comprehensive word with infinite depth of significance and signifies a favor from God. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God and need grace (Rom 3:23). Transgressions forfeit favor with God bringing a loss of hope, covenant blessings and eternal life. Grace is a benign gift with a power to restore the lost to fellowship with God. Grace is free to mankind as a gift through the sacrifice of Christ.

An examination of grace manifests that God is never ungracious or lacking in loving sympathy for man. The riches of heaven await mankind when they are obedient. Grace from God is beyond the ordinary course of graciousness for it acclaims God as worthy of praise. The grace of God exceeds what man will do for another. One might die for a righteous or good man but God dared to die for His enemies (Rom 5:1-11). Divine grace is more laudable and commendable than that of men. God's grace is inestimable, limitless, unspeakable, incredible and unsearchable. In grace is found springs living water of eternal life (Jonah 4:2; 1 Pet 5:10). It is manifested to sinners wherein they have a spiritual choice where the demands of justice have been met and fulfilled in Jesus Christ and His propitiation (Rom 3:21-30). The penalty for sin has been paid (Rom 6:23). Grace introduced a realm of love and favor where death is swallowed up in victory and the sting of death, which is sin has been remitted (1 Cor 15:50-58). The saved enjoy a boundless gift where they can live lives full of virtue (2 Cor 8:7-19). God vouchsafed their redemption in the highest of His love and mercy embracing the prodigals who have come home. The super abundance of God's grace is proven in calling the sinner to repent (2 Pet 3:3-13; 1 Tim 1:12-17).

God's everlasting consolation is not based upon what is owed to mankind but what God gives in spite of the course they may have chosen. In the final dispensation mankind can enjoy debt free lives. The age of grace began at the cross of Calvary and leads mankind in the paths of righteousness.

With grandeur, majesty and gracious acts God magnified the values of the church and kingdom. In no other location can grace be found. God bestows grace on His redeemed and they are in the church of Christ. In the church Christ is displayed and honored as the Saviour. Through His death Jesus bought the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Grace came to the lost wherein Jesus bought them by His blood. Grace is applied to the believer who faithfully obeys. A scrutiny of the elements of grace demonstrates a vast storehouse of blessings. Undeserved love and inexhaustible benefits are found in grace (Rom 11:16). Grace is bestowed apart from any merit of its recipients. All the saved are righteous in the sight of God and abound in the fruit of the Spirit (Rom 5:19; 2 Cor 8:9). The excellent state of reconciliation and fellowship with God regenerates the soul of the redeemed. They are at peace with God. Guided and empowered to represent God as a child of His is a daunting task. God makes it possible by spiritual instructions and edification of other saints (2 Pet 3:18; 2 Tim 2:15). Grace is associated with spiritual development where Christian virtues abound (2 Pet 1:3-11). The redeemed never linger in the darkness, but rather resist every appearance of evil (1 Thes 5:22).

Those who are saved by grace relish the spiritual aspects of their lives. Grace is not only how God deals with salvation but how He gives the believers a scheme of living. Grace demands living in the highest spiritual realm. God is not careless with His grace or should mankind be careless in their lives because of grace (Rom 6:1, 15). It should be inconceivable in the mind of the redeemed to enter again into sin. The impact of grace upon the saved is that they can enter in before the throne of grace to find mercy and grace to help in times of need (Heb 4:16). Christians are those who draw near to God.

Grace is sustained by the mediation of Christ who intercedes on the saint's behalf (Rom 8:35). Those who save grace enjoy fellowship with each other. They enjoy being liberal with what God has lavished upon them (2 Cor 8 & 9). Graciousness naturally springs from those whose lives have been blessed with an unmerited favor. Grace seasons and salts the tongue wherein God is praised and man is edified (Jas 3:1-12). Walking in the light, having fellowship with God and confessing our sins allows the blood of Jesus through grace to be an agency to bring about the forgiveness of sins (1 Jn 1:5-10).

FAMILY CARE

A Message from Our Shepherds

Congratulations to all the hard working ladies that made Ladies' Half Day so successful! Can you imagine that they brought together over 100 ladies from 23 different congregations to praise and glorify our God!

We depend on Ted Lingren and his Cambodian preachers and teachers to use our financial support to spread the Gospel. This is one of the monthly reports about Sisophon Bible Schools that are going on all the time. May God bless their efforts:

Sisophon Province: This February, they went teaching to 40 brethren at the 8 places—at Phnom Liab, Phnom Srok, Jub, Phnom Chonh Chiang, Saesen, West and East O An Dong, Balang congregations. They had preached to 45 unbelievers at 10 different places and Phnom Chonh Chiang villages. They won 3 souls:

1-Bro. Mao Kosal, 41 yrs, at Tuk Jo.

2-Sis. Srey Neang, 23 yrs, at Tuk Jo.

3-Sis. Chrai Sree, 19 yrs, at Tuk Jo.

Bible School

It was opened on the 17-19 February with 8 adult men from six different places. Bro. Mom Jia taught them on the *Parables*. Our students got good subject from the explanation through the New Testament books. They got some questions in the test on the final day and got good scores. Mom Jia also encouraged them through the parables. Ladies' Class: It was opened on the 18-19th with 6 adult women from 3 different places. Sis Chan Thuen taught them on the "*Plan Of God For Me*". They did a good job in coloring illustrated pictures for children. They got back home safely. We had totally 14 adults.

Ted Lingren

Remember all our missionaries and especially the following:

The Yakimenko family and Ilya's eyes

Beth Johnson's illness

Charley DiPalma's eyes and Mary's respiratory ailments

Rose Mohsen's sickness

Wil Saddler's diabetes

Praise God for all the efforts of our wonderful missionaries!

~ Richard L. Renfro

"Wherefore girding up the loins of your mind, be sober and set your hope perfectly on the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as children of obedience, not fashioning yourselves according to your former lusts in the time of your ignorance: but like as he who called you is holy, be ye yourselves also holy in all manner of living; because it is written, Ye shall be holy; for I am holy. And if ye call on him as Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to each man's work, pass the time of your sojourning in fear: knowing that ye were redeemed, not with corruptible things, with silver or gold, from your vain

manner of life handed down from your fathers; but with precious blood, as of a lamb without spot, even the blood of Christ: who was foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but was manifested at the end of times for your sake, who through him are believers in God, that raised him from the dead, and gave him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God" (1 Pet 1:13-21).

In this text honoring God it also recognizes individuals who are "obedient children", this is synonymous with the term "children of light, and the children of the day". Children of light know that the Lord will one day return when the world is saying peace, peace. These children of God do not walk in the darkness of sin but live circumspectly and righteously (1 Thes 5:1-11). Having obtained salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ they know that it matters not when he comes they will be among the redeemed. The Lord's parable of the sower contrasts the children of the kingdom with the sons of the evil one (Mat 13:24-43). In like manner it speaks of the time of the end when judgment will separate the righteous from the unrighteous.

Blessing and wrath are at the heart of the Gospel. Christians make a choice at their conversion to renounce the hidden things of darkness for they are not befitting those who have inherited the Kingdom of Light. They no longer partake of darkness that they may be well pleasing to the Lord (Eph 5:1-14). The things done by the world in secret are reproved by those who walk in light. They have put to death evil because they know that the wrath of God will come upon "sons of disobedience". They have a new and better life to live which is after the image of Him who called them (Col 3:5-11).

The children of God have a manner of life which copies God. The distinction between the children of the devil and God's children is so markedly different that the distinction is as clear as light and dark (1 Jn 3:1-12). Therefore the children of light do no longer fashion themselves to conform to the world. They have a high calling as children of God wherein they walk worthy of the vocation wherein they are called (Eph 4:1).

~ Don Hatch

GREETER ASSIGNMENTS

Sunday, May 3, 2009

Front foyer: JC & Dessie Ross; Max Melton

Back foyer: Stan & Doris Selby

Sunday, May 10, 2009

Front foyer: Roberta Price; Nancy Pond

Back foyer: Robert & Cathy Taylor

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.

CONGREGATION

Mark your calendar for a congregational fish fry & ice cream supper on **Saturday, May 30th** at the Annex at 5:00 p.m.

YOUTH CAMP

Those who have yet to turn in your camp registration, please do so in the next day or two so we can meet **Friday's** deadline.

LADIES

Our Ladies' ½ Day was a great success! Visitors outnumbered Belt Line members; twenty-three congregations were represented with 113 present. Pictures are available in the front foyer for viewing. If you did not get a CD, these are also available in the front foyer; more can be made if needed, please contact Letitia. Due to technical difficulties, the CD's are not complete.

There will be a short post-Ladies' ½ Day meeting following this Sunday evening's worship in room #116.

THANK YOU!

We are so grateful for the talents of Bloomtown Florist & the Prude's for the beautiful flower arrangement specifically made for the podium for Ladies' Day.

FAREWELL TO THE THOMASON'S

This is Kenica Thomason's last week in Texas. She has completed her courses & is joining Brandon back in Oklahoma where they will make their home.

THOSE TO SERVE IN MAY

Lord's table (front): Purman Cofer, Jerry Baker, Dorris Walker, Marvin Brown, Mike Garrison, Bill Matthews, Ty Harvey, John Mayer

(back): JC Ross, Robert Taylor, Max Melton, Keith Vaughn, Bobby Bowen, Jeremy Hardegree, Virgil LaFerney, Derroll Allen

(p.m.) Glen Kelly; Garl Latham

Card Pickup: (a.m.) Toby Howard; Curtis Vaughan **(p.m.)** Nathan Allen; Scot Allen

Contribution Counters: Ty Harvey; Mike Garrison

Communion Preparers: Ilene Ashworth; Mary Wise

PRAYER CONCERNS

- **Linda Matthews'** surgery went well. She was released from the hospital on Saturday & will stay in Houston for a Wednesday follow-up doctor's appointment.
- **Beth Johnson** (missionary in Paris) has been hospitalized.
- **James Barnes** (Gladys' son) had successful triple bypass surgery last week.
- **Ronnie Vaughn** (Dessie's son) was to undergo an echocardiogram today.
- **John Veyon** (Ilene Ashworth's brother) will undergo heart catheterization on Wednesday.

Continuing Prayer Concerns:

Gwen Bingham, Grady Fowler, Fauna Garrett, Billie Gilliam, Don & Judy Hancock, Garldean Latham, Everett Newton, Tom Prince, Roy Thomas, Thomas West, Brad Anderson (Bill Paschall's friend), Nancy Bauer (Scott Watson' mother), 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), Scott Watson (Jeanene Heilman's friend), Ilya Yakimenko (missionaries in Russia), & our shut-ins.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Be sure and mark your calendar -

- May 3: Mission Printing in the Jr. Auditorium at 4:00 p.m.
- May 3: Singing session in room #116 at 5:15 p.m.
- May 3: Post-Ladies' ½ Day meeting after p.m. worship in #116
- May 30: Congregational fish fry & ice cream supper
- June 3: Summertime Preaching
- June 15-17: Vacation Bible School
- July 5-9: Jr. Youth Camp
- July 19-24: Sr. Youth Camp

NURSERY ATTENDANTS

Sunday morning:

- Shellie Pearce

Sunday evening:

- Samantha Harvey

LORD'S TABLE/MORNING

Front Table

- Purman Cofer
- Jerry Baker
- Dorris Walker
- Marvin Brown
- Mike Garrison
- Bill Matthews
- Ty Harvey
- John Mayer

Rear Table

- JC Ross
- Robert Taylor
- Max Melton
- Keith Vaughn
- Bobby Bowen
- Jeremy Hardegree
- Virgil LaFerney
- Derroll Allen

SUNDAY A.M. PRAYERS

- Dean Webb
- Rob Farmer
- Thomas Rathbun

A.M. SCRIPTURE READING

- Mike Batot
Numbers 10:29-36

A.M. SONG LEADER

· Darrell Allen

SUNDAY P.M. PRAYERS

· Henry Seidmeyer
· Stan Selby

P.M. SCRIPTURE READING

· Richard Renfro
1 Peter 5:1-11

P.M. SONG LEADER

· Ty Harvey

LORD’S TABLE/EVENING

· Glen Kelly
· Garl Latham

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	99	98	93	125
A.M. Worship	152	161	155	210
P.M. Worship	84	85	88	112
Wed. Class	74	83	82	110
Ladies Bible Class	25	25	40	35
Contribution	\$5101	\$5224	\$5476	\$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