

THE BOOK OF JAMES – THE ESSENCE OF TRUE RELIGION

October 3, 2010
5: 1-6

9. Heeding the Warning to Rich Oppressors

James

- **As we continue the sermon series on THE BOOK OF JAMES – THE ESSENCE OF TRUE RELIGION let me remind you that the essence of true religion embodies building godly relationships based on active faith depicted by passion in obeying the Truth of God’s Word and compassion towards sinners to build redemptive relationships with them. The essence of true religion actually embodies love, faith and hope with love being the greatest of them all. Faith and hope are the building blocks whereas love is the glue in building relationships. The fruit of love is truly the reflection of true religion as it is the reflection of the God in us during our maturation process as we heed the warning to rich oppressors not to take advantage of the poor. As such another attribute of Christian maturity is the ability of those blessed with riches to build genuine compassionate relationship with the less fortunate. Therefore the focus of the sermon today will be “Christian Maturity through Heeding the Warning to Rich Oppressors”.**
- **It appears each time God blesses people with wealth, money, and/or riches someone is always bound to use such blessings to take advantage and oppress others that are less fortunate. Riches are truly a blessing to those who understand that they are just custodians of these blessings from God for the purpose of redistribution to the needy, less fortunate and/or the poor. But for those who use their riches to oppress others, the riches can actually become a curse to them. One should always bear in mind that it is an obligation and a responsibility to take care of the needy, less fortunate and the poor that coexist with us. If you can recall, Jesus personally declared that as long as you live the poor will always be with you. It is my belief that this happens to test the genuineness of one’s faith and proof the essence of each individual’s true religion. Many godly men, past and present, who understand the essence of true religion have been blessed with riches and wealth.**
- **Therefore the danger of riches and the warning to the rich concerns those who are driven by the love of money. And when your whole life resonates on acquiring riches and wealth at all cost and at the expense of others, especially the less fortunate, the danger is that you will fall in love with money. Please do not misunderstand and misconstrue what I am proposing. You see, wealth, money and riches are good when managed and appropriated wisely to fulfill purposes that benefit humanity. But when you are overtaken and**

consumed by the love of wealth, money and riches for self indulgence there is grave danger waiting. Each time that you crave for riches for the wrong motives to manipulate and use people and/or oppress the needy, less fortunate and poor you will fall in love with money. To fall in love with money is to practice idolatry because anything you love you will worship it. And anything that you worship is your god and master; consequently you will end up serving it. No wonder Jesus argued that you cannot serve God and money. You will either love the one or hate the other. You cannot serve two masters! Further, Paul warned Timothy his son in the ministry that the love of money is the root of all evil. True enough the love of wealth, money and riches can and would drive you to all kinds of atrocities. You can kill, steal, covet and/or use and manipulate people just to acquire more wealth, money and riches. You can become a harlot and/or a pimp just to make more money. What about a drug dealer or an arm robber just to make quick bucks? What about a gambler or an embezzler of funds entrusted in your care? God frowns against all these all the time and as such warns all those who desire to get rich for more self indulgence and to become oppressors of the needy, less fortunate and the poor.

- Thus our text for today reads, “Now listen, you rich people, weep and wail because of the misery that is coming upon you. 2Your wealth has rotted, and moths have eaten your clothes. 3Your gold and silver are corroded. Their corrosion will testify against you and eat your flesh like fire. You have hoarded wealth in the last days. 4Look! The wages you failed to pay the workmen who mowed your fields are crying out against you. The cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord Almighty. 5You have lived on earth in luxury and self-indulgence. You have fattened yourselves in the day of slaughter [or in a day of feasting]. 6You have condemned and murdered innocent men, who were not opposing you” (James 5:1-6).
- And so as God blesses you with wealth, money and riches please learn to lay your treasures in heaven; for where your treasure is there your heart will also be. Appreciate the Giver of wealth, money and riches, and worship Him with the substance of your increase. This way you will fall in love with God and worship Him; otherwise you will love money and worship it. Also, please fully understand that you are a channel of blessings to others when God blesses you with wealth, money and riches. Therefore use these blessings from God to build godly and redemptive relationships that honor God for this is the essence of true religion. And let the church say, Amen!
- And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is what deprives you from building godly and redemptive loving relationships. It is sin also that causes you to reject the warning of God toward the rich oppressors.

- Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease call sin. We call on you to repent, and urge you to humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin, and you will be saved. Once you are saved it is your obligation and responsibility to continually heed the warning give to rich oppressors as you mature in the Christian faith. Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. If you have been away from this local body of Christ at Mt traveler and you have decided to come back why don't you also come as the Choir leads us in a song?
- And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. Chris Johns, Associate Minister

THE BOOK OF JAMES – THE ESSENCE OF TRUE RELIGION

October 10, 2010 10. Christian Maturity through Patience in Suffering
James 5:7-12

INTRODUCTION – Story on Suffering

1. God wants to teach us how to deal with suffering
2. If you are not suffering, you will at some point in life have to deal with it

I. Vs 7 – Wait in Trying Times – Because the Lord is coming.

A. Baking a Cake

1. We have dry stretches in life
 1. Tasteless like flour
 2. Sour experiences like milk
 3. Raw dealings like eggs

4. Go through the oven of affliction
5. Something beautiful in our character & inner soul comes out as the result

A. James shows us two ways when we are not practicing patience are being impatient.

1. Vs 9- Grumbling – Don't grumble against each other

- a. Why the coach didn't pick me
- b. Why cant we sing on this Sunday
- c. 1 item in line "Let me go ahead"

A. Grumbling - indication of we don't trust God

1. Phil 2:14- Do everything without complaining or arguing.

2. Vs 12 - Second indication of being impatient is swearing

- A. Let your Yes mean Yes & No, No
- B. Caution us on oath taking

B. 3 lessons on patience in suffering

1. Farmer has to wait on the rain – No control

- A. Circumstances in life you have no control
- B. Farmer can't count on rain he can only hope for it.
- C. In life things happen - no use grumbling, no use swearing, no use making life miserable for those around you.
- D. All you can do is wait & place trust in God to handle it.
The harvest will come
- E. (Lesson) Some suffering is beyond our control. Wait patiently for the Lord, be brave and courageous. Yes, wait

patiently for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

2. Prophets spoke in the name of Lord

A. Hosea had an unfaithful wife

B. Jeremiah was called the weeping prophet

1. People mad at message and beat him

**C. We ask the Question – God why is this happening to me?
What have I done wrong? Why are you punishing me?**

D. These prophets were walking in the will of God – Yet they suffered.

E. (Lesson) Learn from the things we get most upset about, most impatient about, and learn not to give up on God. God is bigger than any problem.

Jeremiah 29:5- Build, plant, marry & multiply. God new this was not where his people wanted to be as slaves in Babylon. He new they rather be in Jerusalem, but God had them to stay and make the best of it.

Maybe your not were you want to be.

Maybe you don't have the Job you would like.

Maybe your situation isn't ideal.

Don't be impatient make the best with it and serve God in it.

The Question Mount Traveler

What are you doing until things get better?

What are you doing between the time you are sick & the time you are well?

What are you doing in the meantime between you lose your job & the

time you get the next one?

3. Job endured patiently and persevered.

- 1. Job lost cattle, possessions**
- 2. He lost children, his health**
- 3. He had a lot of questions**
- 4. He didn't know what God was doing**
- 5. (Lesson) All suffering, everything we get impatient about is temporary. The best is yet to come.**

So Count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

Jesus died for our sins and rose up from the grave so that we would have life. We are to patiently wait on him and understand that God has the ultimate reward for us.

- Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with the chronic disease called sin that prevents you from contending for the faith. All you need to do is to repent of your sin, accept Jesus into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ that He died and rose again for you to be saved from your sins; and you will be saved. Once you are saved you need to understand that it is your obligation and responsibility to contend for the faith. Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience because the Christian Call demands that you understand you are called to be a bondservant of Jesus Christ. Why don't you come as the Choir leads us in a song?**
- And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?**

**Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor**

THE BOOK OF JAMES – THE ESSENCE OF TRUE RELIGION

- **As we conclude the sermon series on THE BOOK OF JAMES – THE ESSENCE OF TRUE RELIGION let me remind you that the essence of true religion embodies building godly relationships based on active faith depicted by passion in obeying the Truth of God’s Word and compassion towards sinners to build redemptive relationships with them. The essence of true religion actually embodies love, faith and hope with love being the greatest of them all. Faith and hope are the building blocks whereas love is the glue in building relationships. The fruit of love is truly the reflection of true religion as it is the reflection of the God in us during our maturation process as we build godly and redemptive through the process of forgiveness and the prayer of faith. As such another attribute of Christian maturity is the ability to mature in the prayer of faith as you also build a righteous life. Therefore the focus of the sermon today will be “Christian Maturity through The Prayer of Faith”.**
- **Christian maturity is achieved through patiently enduring trials and constantly living a righteous life. Righteousness is the desire to always do right and do it. Thus it requires confession of sin and repentance continually to remain righteous. This is because there is none that is righteous, not even one – for we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. 10If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives (1John 1:8-10). And this is what leads us into much trouble!**
- **Thus our text for today reads, “Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. 17Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. 19My brothers, if one of you should wander from the truth and someone should bring him back, 20remember this: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins” (James 5:13-20).**
- **The prayer of faith facilitates building godly and redemptive relationship. It**

is through it that you continue to fall in love with God and worship Him. The prayer of faith usually comes forth a righteous man and it is always effective. Learn to be forgiving and learn to offer forgiveness because forgiveness is a key ingredient in building godly and redemptive relationships that honor God. Such godly relationships can render healing to the Church of Christ as well as turn sinners from their errors and save them from sin consequently covering a multitude of sins. And this is the essence of true religion. And let the church say, Amen!

- And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is what deprives you from building godly and redemptive loving relationships. It is sin also that deprives you of the prayer of faith.
- Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease call sin. We call on you to repent, and urge you to humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin, and you will be saved. Once you are saved it is your obligation and responsibility to continually exercise the prayer of faith. Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. If you have been away from this local body of Christ at Mt traveler and you have decided to come back why don't you also come as the Choir leads us in a song?
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Synopses of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS – THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING

October 24, 2010

1. Thankfulness and Prayers

Philippians 1: 1-11

- As we approach thanksgivings in the United States next month we are starting a new sermon series on THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS – THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING. Let me begin by stating that it is always good to reflect on where you came from so as to be thankful for how far God has taken you in this pilgrim's journey.
- The Book of Philippians was written while Paul was under house arrest in Rome and received a visitor named Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus was a

member of the church in Philippi and on behalf of the congregation had brought a gift for the support of Paul's apostolic ministry. He also brought a report to Paul that the Philippians were eager for some news about his circumstances and the outcome of his trial before the Roman imperial court. Epaphroditus remained with Paul for some time and assisted him in the Lord's work. During this time Epaphroditus became seriously ill and nearly died. The Lord in his mercy spared his life and renewed his health and strength. Paul's plans were to send Epaphroditus back to the Philippians, who had heard of Epaphroditus' serious illness and he could also report Paul's circumstances to the Philippians. So Paul took this opportunity and wrote his letter to the Philippians. He wrote to thank them for their gift to him and to inform them about his circumstances in Rome including his trial as well as to strengthen them in the hope and joy that was theirs in Christ.

- If you recall very well the church at Philippi had a lowly but wonderful beginning. The Spirit led Paul to establish this church at Philippi on his second missionary journey. The Book Acts 16:6-10 informs us that the Holy Spirit had expressly forbidden Paul to preach the Word in the northern Roman provinces of Asia Minor and Bithynia, in what is now present day Turkey. Rather the Spirit led Paul to Troas, the ancient city of Troy, on the west coast of Asia Minor across the Aegean Sea from Macedonia, which is now northern Greece. There in Troas the Lord gave Paul a vision of a man beckoning him to come to Macedonia. Understanding that the Lord wanted him and his co-workers to preach the gospel there, Paul together with Silas, Timothy, and Luke sailed west to Macedonia and set their feet for the first time on European soil at the port city of Neapolis. From there they traveled by foot to the strategic city of Philippi. Acts 16:2 states that Philippi, a Roman colony, was the leading city of the district of Macedonia.
- Few Jews lived in Philippi. Thus there was no synagogue where Paul could begin to preach the gospel of Jesus as he had customarily done in the eastern cities of Galatia on his first missionary journey. On the Sabbath Paul and his co-workers left the city and walked about a mile east to the banks of the Gangites River (cf. Acts 16:13). There they suspected they would find a place of prayer where the few Jews in the area gathered for prayer on the Sabbath. They spoke to some women who had gathered there. One of them was a proselyte named Lydia (cf. Acts 16:14), who was a worshipper of the Lord God. She was a woman of some means and wealth, for she conducted her own business of selling fine purple fabrics. The Lord awakened faith in her heart as she listened to Paul as he preached the gospel of Jesus. She and her household were then baptized as they responded to the gospel. She urged Paul and his companions to stay at her house, which then became the headquarters for Paul's mission work and the church in Philippi.

- During his ministry Paul cast a demon of divination from a slave girl, who had continually harassed Paul and his co-workers. When her owners realized they had lost their lucrative income from the girl's fortune-telling, they had Paul and Silas arrested, beaten, and imprisoned. About midnight that night, after the Lord had responded to their prayers and songs of praise in prison with an earthquake that opened the prison gates, Paul and Silas shared the gospel with their jailer. The jailer and his household believed and were baptized (cf. Acts 16:16-34).
- With the conversion of Lydia and the Roman jailer and their households the church of Philippi came into being. From this humble small beginning the church at Philippi grew in numbers. It was the first church Paul established in Europe. It is this same church that sent a gift to Paul through Epaphroditus. This remembrance by the church and the gift of love in his time of distress reassured Paul of the love of this church he founded in Philippi. So he decided to send his letter back to the church through Epaphroditus to express his gratitude and also encourage its members. He began his letter with greetings but quickly switch the subject to how thankful he was whenever he prayed for this church. Thus our focus for the first sermon in this series is **THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING – Thankfulness and Prayers.**
- Thus our text for today reads, “Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus: To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers [Bishops or Pastors] and deacons: 2Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3I thank my God every time I remember you. 4In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:1-11).
- You cannot pray effectively and be thankful to anyone if you do not love the person. The godly relations that we establish in agape love and righteousness causes us to be have gratitude and be prayerful for one another as well as be thankful even as we await the second coming of the Lord. And let the church say, Amen!

- And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is what deprives you from appreciating the godly loving relationships we have through Christ. It is sin also that deprives you from gratitude, thanksgiving and prayer.
- Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease call sin. We call on you to repent, and urge you to humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin, and you will be saved. Once you are saved it is your obligation and responsibility to continue to be thankful and prayerful for other believers of the faith. Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. If you have been away from this local body of Christ at Mt traveler and you have decided to come back why don't you also come as the Choir leads us in a song?
- And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?

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Synopsis of Sermons Preached by Rev. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS – THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING

October 31, 2010

2. Christ is Preached

Philippians 1: 12-18

- As we continue on the new sermon series on THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS – THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING, allow me to state that reflecting on one's beginnings always cause him/her to be thankful to God for how far He has seen you through in this pilgrim's journey. Also to realize that someone or some people actually do some godly things out of jealousy and to inflict pains to you in this pilgrim's journey is a reason to be thankful. The latitude and motive of why some people do certain things should never determine your attitude of gratitude.
- The Book of Philippians helps us understand that some people take delight in helping others in this pilgrim's journey whereas others are actually out to deter your progress and/or hurt you. As he was updating the Church in Philippi concerning his circumstances, Paul had realized that in his time of distress when he was under house arrest that they were some people that

were preaching the gospel so that his imprisonment may be prolonged. Paul did not hate or dislike them for their motives, rather he was thankful and grateful that Christ is preached and the gospel was been advanced!

- Thus our text for today reads, “Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard[b] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. 15It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16The later do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.[c] 18But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.” (Philippians 1:12-18).
- When you participate or refuse to participate in any ministry in the church, what is your motive? Is it to hurt the feelings of someone in the Church? What is the motive for what you do? When someone sings or leads the song that you usually lead or sing, what is your attitude towards them? Are you grateful that the gospel is advanced? When someone preaches from the same text that you love to preach from and appear to have been more eloquent and sound in doctrine than you, what is your attitude towards them? Are you glad that Christ is preached and the gospel is advanced? Or are you busy thinking of their motive and calculating how to beat them in the game when next you have the opportunity to display your gift? Always remember people’s motives are irrelevant compared to the furtherance and advancement of the gospel. Therefore continue to rejoice in the Lord when it comes to ministering and advancing the gospel no matter who is helping that cause or for whatever reason or motive. Hence, always remember that the godly relationships that we establish in agape love and righteousness through advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ would always cause us to rejoice, have gratitude, be prayerful for one another as well as be thankful to God for our pilgrim’s journey even as we await the second coming of the Lord. And let the church say, Amen!
- And so as we conclude this worship experience, allow me to suggest to you that sin is what deprives you from appreciating the godly loving relationships we have through Christ. It is sin also that deprives you from gratitude, thanksgiving and rejoicing that the gospel of Christ is advanced despite the motives with which it is carried out.

- **Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease call sin. We call on you to repent, and urge you to humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin, and you will be saved. Once you are saved it is your obligation and responsibility to rejoice that Christ is preached and the gospel is advanced despite the motives. Remember it is a choice that you must personally make! The word has been preached and the invitation has been given. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. If you have been away from this local body of Christ at Mt traveler and you have decided to come back why don't you also come as the Praise Team leads us in a song?**
- **And if you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?**