

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS – THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING

January 2, 2011

11. Generosity

Philippians 4:10-23

- As we conclude the sermon series on **THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS – THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING**, allow me to state that as you constantly reflect on your humble beginnings it would always cause you to be thankful to God for how far He has brought you through this pilgrim's journey. Life in itself is problem-solving all the time as it is full of dynamic changes. Nothing is static and so you cannot avoid problems as long as you live. Your attitude towards these dynamic life changes determines how you attain fulfillment in life as the state of your circumstances, conditions and situations will always be dynamic. One way to combat the dynamic changes in our lives is to remain faithful in following the Lord no matter what happens in this pilgrim's journey. Therefore as a Christian, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ that the outcome of your circumstances, conditions, and situations would glorify God in your body whether by life or by death. You must always look beyond the physical and defy the gravity pulling you out of grace to wallow in sin and its attributes. Moreover Paul also makes it clear in this epistle of Philippians that for some unforeseen reason(s) someone or some people in your life actually do enjoy inflicting pains to you in this pilgrim's journey to deter your progress and/or hurt you. Even though this Church at Philippi had its internal problems, Paul was quick to commend it for its generosity. Hence, as a Christian you should never allow the latitude and motives of others determine your attitude of gratitude to God that it will prevent you from being generous to the brethren in need among you.
- Generosity is an attribute of thanksgiving. When you are grateful for what God has done for you and blessed you with, you understand that you are just a custodian of God's blessing to share with those in need. God has blessed us with another year and I wish you God's very best in 2011, but don't forget to be generous in supporting the work of God at Mt Traveler. Paul was appreciative of the generosity of the Church at Philippi and I hope this year will bring a renewal of your appreciation of the local Body of Christ at Mt Traveler. As you receive God's blessing this year remember God loves a cheerful giver. May your commitment be sure and true as that of the Church at Philippi in supporting the work of the ministry and the minister! Each time the Lord blesses you and you have an opportunity be generous in supporting God's work to build His kingdom. Thus our focus today is **THE ATTRIBUTES OF THANKSGIVING – Generosity**.
- Thus today's text reads, "I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your

acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. 20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 21 Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. 22 All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen" (Philippians 4:10-23).

- **Mt Traveler members, allow me to conclude this sermon by appealing to you to:**
 - Appreciate the blessings of God
 - Know that you a channel of God's blessings to the less fortunate
 - Be generous to the least among the brethren and for the furtherance of the Gospel
 - Learn to be content in whatever circumstances, conditions and situations you find yourself in
 - Always rejoice and do everything to God's glory
 - Make a commitment to begin afresh in serving God and others generously in this brand New Year. Wishing a blessed and prosperous 2011. Happy New Year!
- 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 being generous in this pilgrim's journey. Sin will prevent you from having a heart of gratitude, thanksgiving and rejoicing in the progress of others such that you can be generous to them.
- Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease call sin. Repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart. 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. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. 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. B. C. Datiri, Pastor

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 9, 2011

1. Redemption In Christ Through His Blood

Ephesians 1:1-14

- 1 As we begin another sermon series on THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, allow me to state that the Church is the body of Christ redeemed through His blood. It is a group of believers united by their faith in Christ. The book of Ephesians can be labeled the epistle portraying the “Church of Christ” as it represents the body of Christ; for Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church. It is addressed to a group of believers who are rich beyond measure in Jesus Christ yet living as beggars because they are ignorant of their wealth. Paul in Chapters 1-3 describes the content of the believer’s heavenly “bank account” to include: adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit , life, grace, citizenship – to sum it all he said “every spiritual blessing”. In Chapters 4-6, Paul writes about how the Christian learns his spiritual walk that is rooted in his spiritual wealth. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (chapters 1-3) for good works ... that we should walk in them (chapters 4-6)” (Ephesians 2:10).**
- 2 The Church at Ephesus is one of the seven churches that Jesus wrote letters to through John in Revelation Chapters 2-3. This was a church that had been born in a revival. In Acts 18-20, we read of how Paul came to Ephesus and preached for three months in the synagogue. Although he was greatly opposed, God did a great work in the city that Acts 19:20 reads, “In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power”. This was a Church that through the years had been blessed with great pastors. Paul had been there for two years, Timothy followed Paul, and it is believed that the Apostle John himself followed Timothy. Jesus personally commended this Church for its service, patience and spiritual stance in sound doctrine. However, in Revelation 2:4 Jesus had reprimanded this church for leaving its first love for Him. The words “first love” describes a devotion to Christ that is full of passion, excitement, and fervency that is openly displayed and uninhibited. Warren Wiersbe describes it as the honeymoon love of a husband and wife. These believers at Ephesus in the past had been so excited about being saved. Serving the Lord was a blessing not a burden. Sharing their faith with others was a joy and not just a job. They were in love with Jesus and not ashamed of it. In essence Jesus was saying in Revelation to the Church at Ephesus: “You are a hard working group of people, you are strong and endure persecution, and are doctrinally sound (hating the deeds of Nicolaitans as Jesus did, and not tolerating those who are evil). But you have lost that excitement, passion, and zeal that you once had. Mt Traveler members, do you remember when you first were saved? Everything you learned was so thrilling. You wanted to read your Bible and pray each day. You could not wait to get back to Church. You wanted everyone to know that you had been saved. Being a Christian was the greatest thing in the world. You were so excited about being saved and the Lord meant everything to you. That is what is meant by “first love”. In this Book of Ephesians, Paul was writing to remind this Church that it was the body of Christ redeemed by His blood. Therefore our focus today is THE CHURCH OF CHRIST – Redemption In Christ Through His Blood.**
- 3 Thus today’s text reads, “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every**

spiritual blessing in Christ. 4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, 10 to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ. 11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, 12 in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. 13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:1-14).

- 4 Mt Traveler members, allow me to conclude this sermon by appealing to you to:
 - Please reevaluate your first love for Jesus as we begin another year and phase in our pilgrim’s journey
 - Remember you have be redeemed by the blood of Jesus
 - Know you have been adopted into sonship into God’s Kingdom to become a citizen of heaven
 - Know that you have been blessed in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus
 - Know Christ chose you before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight
 - Know When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of his glory
 - Always do everything to God’s glory; and let the Church say, Amen!
- 5 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. Sin is a chronic disease that deprives you from knowing who you are in Christ Jesus.
- 6 Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease call sin. Repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart. 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. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. Why don’t you also come as the Praise Team leads us in a song?
- 7 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

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 9, 2011 **2. Praying for The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation** **Ephesians 1:15-23**

INTRODUCTION – Competing in the game

1. How can I compete without knowing the rules?
2. How can you fight without the sword of the spirit?

A. Praying is for light; Second prayer is for love.

1. Faith & Love are two great words **Vs 15**
 - a. Love is the outgrowth of faith
 - b. Faith manifest itself by love
 - c. Faith works by Love. **Gal 5:6** For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything nor uncircumcision; **but faith with worketh by love.**
 - d. Love is the proof of discipleship
2. Prayer & Thanksgiving go together **Vs 16**
3. Paul request God give spirit of wisdom & Revelation. **Vs 17**
 - a. Man needs much more than reason & research – He needs revelation from God. We all need a fuller knowledge of Christ (Phil 3:10)
4. Be enlightened. Endwell in high calling (Phil 3:13-14) **Vs 18**
 - a. To be like Christ & with Christ
 - b. God owns the universe but his most previous possession is the pearl of great price, the **church**. The saints are the trophies of his grace.
5. We can depend on his power- It is divine, inexhaustible, irresistible & available. **Vs. 19-20**
 - a. Little power – indisputable evidence of little fellowship with Christ
 - b. Paul prays we know – **(1)**the hope to which he calls us. **(2)**the riches he possesses in us.**(3)** Power he extends toward us.
 - c. Which he wrought in Christ – Demonstration of Gods Omnipotence – his infinite power – when he raised Jesus from the dead
 - d. Resurrection power is available to us
 1. Promise to seat the church in same glory as Christ.

6. Christ is far above all (**Rev 19:16**) King of Kings & Lord of Lords. **Vs 21-22**
 - a. Head of all things
 1. Church is used over 100X in New Testament.
7. Church is his body – Church is a living organism. **Vs 23**
 - a. Body is the agent through which he accomplish his work.
 - b. Christ is full expression of God (**Col 1:19, 2:9**). For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
 1. The church is the expression of Christ.
 - a. Church filled with his presence.
 - b. Animated with his life.
 - c. Endowed with his gifts.
 - c. In Christ the church has everything needed to fulfill its mission.
 1. Love makes mission complete
 2. Love mins all hurt
 3. Love put families back together
 4. Love is God
 5. God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
6. Sin separates us from the presence of God.
 - a. Sin destroys families
 - b. Destroys peace, joy
 - c. confusion, murmuring
 - d. covertness, jealousy
 - e. envy, strife, resentment
8. **(Conclusion)**
 - a. God sent his son to die for our sins
 - b. He rose

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

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 23, 2011 3. Salvation By Grace Through Faith Ephesians 2:1-10

- 1 As we continue the sermon series on **THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**, allow me to state that the Church is the body of Christ redeemed

through His blood and saved by grace through faith. The Church is a group of believers united by their faith in Christ. The book of Ephesians is the epistle portraying the “Church of Christ” as it represents the body of Christ; for which Jesus Christ is the Head. Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are rich beyond measure in Jesus Christ yet living as beggars because they are ignorant of their wealth. Paul in Chapters 1-3 describes the content of the believer’s heavenly “bank account” to include: adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, eternal life, grace, citizenship – to sum it all he said “every spiritual blessing”. In Chapters 4-6, Paul writes about how the Christian learns his spiritual walk that is rooted in his spiritual wealth. “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (chapters 1-3) for good works ... that we should walk in them (chapters 4-6)” (Ephesians 2:10).

- 2 But, Church, do you know what destroys and/or kills the Church? It is ignorance. Ignorance is lack of knowledge, understanding and wisdom. This why Paul wrote in chapter 1 to remind the Christians in Ephesus and is reminding us today of how rich the church is and yet it lives as beggars. This is because the church does not lack knowledge. The problem is disobedience to the knowledge of the truth for lack of understanding and application of the knowledge that we have acquired and understood. For instance what is grace and what is faith?
- 3 Now grace is an unmerited gift that has to be accepted by faith. Faith on the other hand is the substance of things hope for the evidence of things not seen (by naked eyes, for the things that are seen are temporary, but those things that are not seen are eternal). In being saved by grace through faith we are made alive in Christ and qualified for the destiny of God’s kingdom to receive an inheritance of eternity as joint heirs with Jesus and as citizens of heaven. If this is the case, church, shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Of course not, for this is a rhetorical question with the resounding answer: “God forbid”. You see then that to continue to live in sin after receiving the knowledge of the truth is ignorance. It is a lack of understanding of our spiritual wealth and a lack of wisdom to apply what we know to be true. This is why Rev Johns reminded us on last Sunday that it not about the headlines because the headlines do not tell the whole story but what we love to see. You need to read the whole article to know the whole story! And I hope you know why we must pray for the spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know Christ better and that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe (Ephesians 1:17-19).
- 4 Therefore our focus today is THE CHURCH OF CHRIST – Salvation By Grace Through Faith. Thus today’s text reads, “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. 3 All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our flesh and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature deserving of wrath. 4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it

is by grace you have been saved. 6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:1-10).

5 Mt Traveler members, allow me to conclude this sermon with the following statement and questions to you:

- Please reevaluate your first love for Jesus each day in your pilgrim’s journey
- Do you have the knowledge of the truth about your salvation which is by grace through faith or are you just go after the headlines that do not tell the whole story?
- Do you understand what it truly means to say you are saved by grace through faith?
- Have you the wisdom to apply what it really means to have salvation by grace through faith to prove that God raised you up with Christ and seated you with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to you in Christ Jesus?
- Do you know, understand and apply the fact that you are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for you to do? And are you doing such in obedience or are you disobedient?
- And let the Church say, Amen!

6 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. Sin is a chronic disease that deprives you from knowing who you are in Christ Jesus.

7 Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease, called sin. Repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart. 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. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. Why don’t you come as the Male Chorus Team leads us in a song?

8 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?

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

January 30, 2011 4. Brought Near By His Blood Ephesians 2:11-22

- 9** As we continue the sermon series on THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS – THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, allow me to state that the Church is the body of Christ redeemed through His blood and saved by grace through faith. The Church is a group of believers united by their faith in Christ's redemptive work through His blood that break all the barriers created by the works and the laws of flesh that cause divisions. The book of Ephesians is the epistle portraying the "Church of Christ" as it represents the united body of Christ; for which Jesus Christ is the Head. Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are rich beyond measure in Jesus Christ yet living as beggars because they are ignorant of their wealth. Paul in Chapters 1-3 describes the content of the believer's heavenly "bank account" to include: adoption, acceptance, redemption, forgiveness, wisdom, inheritance, the seal of the Holy Spirit, eternal life, grace, citizenship – to sum it all he said "every spiritual blessing". In Chapters 4-6, Paul writes about how the Christian learns his spiritual walk that is rooted in his spiritual wealth. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus (chapters 1-3) for good works ... that we should walk in them (chapters 4-6)" (Ephesians 2:10).
- 10** But, what has always been wrong with the Church? There are so many divisions in the Church. Sometimes the division is along blood lines, at times along racial lines and other times along socio-political and/or class lines. So we must always remind ourselves that the church is a body of believers redeemed by the blood of Jesus. The church therefore has many members united together into one body by the strength of love through the sacrificed blood of Jesus that redeems, reconciles and creates an atmosphere of peaceful coexistence. The church can be described as unity in diversity with many members who are united to form one body with Jesus Christ serving as the glue binding us together into a love relationship which provides our identity. Without Jesus Christ in the center of the church, the relationship between members will remain broken. There will be factions, schisms, sects, and cliques based on blood, racial, socio-political and/or class lines. These divisions are barriers that create disunity of the Church in any generation. As such members of the body of Christ become hostile to each other; quick to take offense and sluggish to find good grounds for reconciliation. Or why is it easier for church members to find grounds for separation or divisions rather than commonalities in the faith that foster unity among its members? This is because the laws of the flesh are at work creating barriers and hostility to keep the church from working as a united body of Christ. But the main purpose of Christ shedding His blood on Calvary is to redeem us and destroy such barriers and to reconcile us to each other as one body of believers called the Church. As a result members of the Church are brought near to each other in a love relationship by the blood of Jesus.
- 11** Therefore our focus today is THE CHURCH OF CHRIST – Brought Near By His Blood. Thus today's text reads, "Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the

circumcision” (which is done in the body by human hands) — 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, 15 by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, 16 and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. 17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. 19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit” (Ephesians 2:11-22).

12 Mt Traveler members, allow me to conclude this sermon with the following statements to you:

- The blood of Jesus is a formidable force that breaks the barrier of hostility and unite believers into one body commonly called the church.
- The church members reflect unity in diversity that results in peaceful coexistence for Jesus is our peace who has broken every wall of hostility
- Church members are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone
- The Church (as a whole building) is joined together and rises to a holy temple in the Lord that is being together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. And let the Church say, Amen!

13 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. Sin is a chronic disease that deprives you from knowing who you are in Christ Jesus.

14 Therefore we are extending an invitation to anyone who is still struggling with this chronic disease, called sin. Repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart. Then confess with your mouth your faith in Him that He died and rose again to save you from your sin through the shedding of His blood, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come either as a candidate for baptism, rededication or as one with Christian experience. Why don’t you come as the Praise Team leads us in a song?

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