

THE EPISTLES OF JOHN – CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

September 4, 2011

10. Faith in the Incarnate Son of God

1John 1:1-12

1. Christianity is not about religion but about relationships. Religion is how man strives to reach God and know Him. Christianity is the relationship established through agape love initiated by God reaching man in order for man to get to know Him and relate with Him on a personal basis. John, the apostle of love, in his epistles establishes the processes of the “how to build” agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life through accepting the Incarnate Christ, the bridge over the chasm that sin has created between man and Him. The vertical relationship is then a relevant pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings that in turn would proof whether we have any relationship with God or not.
2. John now in the text of today continues to tell us why he was writing his epistles. He makes it very plain that the vertical relationship is established through faith in the Incarnate Son of God. Once the Incarnate Christ is accepted by anyone, such a one is given the right to become a child of God. As a result, anyone that is a child of God must represent and exhibit love as proof that it is the case. Otherwise, you cannot represent Him because you are none of His. The ultimate is that anyone who does not love cannot have any part in God because they are influenced by the evil spirit. Children of God are able to represent God by agape love because of the Holy Spirit that He has given us and who now indwells us. The Holy Spirit is the God in you that empowers you to be like God, full of agape love. This also grants you the confidence to know who and whose you are because the vertical relationship has been established. Also, you will know that you have eternal life because you have believed in Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. Faith in the Son of God gives you the victory that overcomes the world because Jesus has overcome the world and given us victory – and there is historical evidences that bear witness to proof that Jesus is the Son of God who has come into the world to give us eternal life.
3. Thus today’s text, “Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. 2 This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. 3 In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, 4 for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 5 Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God. 6 This is the one who came by water and blood—Jesus Christ. He did not come by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. 7 For there are three that testify: 8 the Spirit, the water and the blood; and the three are in agreement. 9 We accept human testimony, but God’s testimony is greater because it is the testimony of God, which he has given about his Son. 10 Whoever believes in the Son of God accepts this testimony. Whoever does not believe God has made him out to be a liar, because they have not believed the testimony God has given about his Son. 11 And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in

his Son. 12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1John 5:1-12).

4. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize today’s sermon as follows. John informs us that:

- Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God
- Everyone who loves the father loves his child as well. This is how we know that we love the children of God: by loving God and carrying out his commands. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. And his commands are not burdensome
- Everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith in the Incarnate Son of God
- Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God, and whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. Thus everyone who believes in Christ has eternal life for Christ is the Son of God based on historical evidences/testimonies: First at birth (by the Holy Spirit), at baptism (by water) and then at the cross (by the blood). And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life because on three occasions God bore witness that Jesus Christ is His son.
- Therefore everyone who is in Christ has eternal destiny with eternal life with God as a reward. And let the church say, “Amen!”

5 So if you desire to know God and enjoy spiritual fellowship and eternal life with Him, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. 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 on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?

6 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 EPISTLES OF JOHN – CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

September 11, 2011

11. Concluding Affirmations

1 John 5:13-21

INTRODUCTION – Belief to assurance or joyous confidence

If God can inspire us in difficulty

Lift us up when down & out

Encourage us when we are depressed

Comfort us when we are lonely

Satisfy us when we have need

Strengthen us when we face temptation

Protect us when in danger

Defend us from our enemies

Sustain us when we are weak

**Heal us when we are sick
Bless us when we are burden down**

Vs. 13, Definite assurance/joyous confidence as a child of God we have eternal life by belief in Christ

A. Eph 2:8-9, by grace are ye saved through faith & not by works

Vs. 14-17, you are a child of God – Answered prayer

- A. Heb 13:5-6, I will never leave nor forsake**
- B. Prayer to revive us when discouraged**
- C. Prayer to help us when feel helpless**
- D. Prayer to deliver us from evil & wickedness**
- E. He hears us when we ask according to his will**
 - 1. Petitions and Supplications**

Vs. 18, you are a child of God- will not live in sin

- A. In Christ we have victory over sin**
- B. Evil cannot touch in Christ**
 - 1. Greater is he who is in me than he that is in the world.**
 - 2. Order my steps in thy word; let not any iniquity have dominion over me.**
 - 3. Heb 10:26, if we keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left.**
 - 4. Ultimate sin is to reject Christ after you know the truth, quench the holy spirit**

Vs. 19-21, as a believer there is assurance that we are in God.

- A. Majority of world in the power of satan**
- B. Christ has come- left holy spirit**
- C. Christ has claimed us- redeemed with a price**
- D. We have a peace that surpasses all understanding**
- E. We have an assurance**
 - When everything seems to go wrong**
 - Inspiration when difficulties arise**
 - Comfort when disaster strikes**
 - Peace when trouble erupts**
 - Encouragement when adversities develop**
 - Believe that Christ is alive**
 - Believe that he rose from the grave**
 - Believe in Christ we have eternal life**
 - Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords**
 - At his name every Knee shall bow**
 - At his name every tongue shall confess**
 - Assurance that he is Lord in heaven & earth**

- **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 EPISTLES OF JOHN – CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

September 18, 2011

12. The Chosen Lady and her Children

2John 1-13

- 1. Christianity is not about religion but about relationships. Religion is how man strives to reach God and know Him. Christianity is the relationship established through agape love initiated by God reaching man in order for man to get to know Him and relate with Him on a personal basis as He chooses us and we accept Him. John, the apostle of love, in his epistles establishes the processes of the “how to build” agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life through accepting the Incarnate Christ, the bridge over the chasm that sin had created between man and Him. The vertical relationship is then a relevant pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings that in turn would proof whether we have any relationship with God or not.**
- 2. John now in the text of today (2John) continues to tell us why he was writing his epistles. He makes it very plain that whenever the vertical relationship is established through faith in the Incarnate Son of God, those chosen of God then developed horizontal relationships with other people. In today’s text John wrote to address one of those chosen persons and those she had formed horizontal relationships with. He did not tell us her name or names of those she had formed relationships with, but just called her a lady chosen by God and her children. However, I do want to suggest that this chosen lady must have formed the vertical relationship with God first as God chose her and then she formed horizontal relationships with children: some perhaps of her womb and other through faith in Christ. No matter the case, John was proud to write this chosen lady that he loved her and her children in the truth, and not only him but all those who know the truth. He was writing the chosen lady concerning the antichrist and the importance of agape love that she needs to practice to reflect the image of Christ in her, and the consequences of not following the teachings of Christ. He was highly impressed of the impact the chosen lady had had on her children because they were walking in the truth.**
- 3. Thus today’s text reads, “1 The elder, To the lady chosen by God and to her children, whom I love in the truth—and not I only, but also all who know the truth— 2 because of the truth, which lives in us and will be with us forever: 3 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son, will be with us in truth and love. 4 It has given me great joy to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as the Father commanded us. 5 And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but the one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another. 6 And this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands. As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love. 7 I say this because many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist. 8 Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. 9 Anyone who runs ahead and does**

not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. 11 Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work. 12 I have much to write to you, but I do not want to use paper and ink. Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete. 13 The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings” (2John 1-13).

4. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize today’s sermon as follows. John informs us that:

- Those who develop agape love relationships with God and man have been chosen by God as they respond to His call to an agape love relation.
 - The agape love we have in order to develop relationships is because of God’s Son; and His grace, mercy and peace will be with us in truth and love.
 - It is always joy when children of God walk in truth according to God’s commands.
 - And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands and as you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.
 - Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.
 - Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked for, but that you may be rewarded fully. Anyone who does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.
 - If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take them into your house or welcome them. Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work.
 - Christian fellowship is important and John concludes by saying: I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.
 - Other chosen ladies have godly children too and so John closed this epistle by saying: The children of your sister, who is chosen by God, send their greetings. And let the church say, “Amen!”
5. So if you desire to know God and enjoy spiritual fellowship and eternal life with Him, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. 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 on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?
6. 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 EPISTLES OF JOHN – CHRISTIANITY IS ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS

September 25, 2011

13. The Dear Friend and Faithful Brother

3John 1-14

- 1. Christianity is not about religion but about relationships. Religion is how man strives to reach God and know Him. Christianity is the relationship established through agape love initiated by God reaching man in order for man to get to know Him and relate with Him on a personal basis as He chooses us and we accept Him. John, the apostle of love, in his epistles establishes the processes of the “how to build” agape love relationships with God and man. The key is to first establish the essential vertical relationship with God who is Light, Love and Life through accepting the Incarnate Christ, the bridge over the chasm that sin had created between man and Him. The vertical relationship is then a relevant pre-requisite for the horizontal agape relationship with other human beings that in turn would proof whether we have any relationship with God or not.**
- 2. John now in the text of today (3John) continues to tell us why he was writing his epistles. He makes it very plain that whenever the vertical relationship is established through faith in the Incarnate Son of God, those chosen of God then developed horizontal relationships with other people. In today’s text John now addresses a dear Friend, Gaius reiterating what he has said to the Chosen lady in 2John that after forming the vertical relation, it is imperative and essential to form horizontal relationships on the virtues of agape love and Truth. Also, John was proud to write this dear Friend that he loved him and his children (some believers) in the truth, who were testifying of his faithfulness to the truth, telling how he continues to walk in it. John also expressed great joy that his own children in the Lord were also walking in the truth. Gaius was also faithful and fond of welcoming brothers and sisters who may be stranger to their congregation in the manner that pleased and honored God and they in turn have told the Church (the body of Christ) about his love. You see, love and truth are reliable testimonials and virtues that can stand the test of time in the Church and any court of law. John then prays for Gaius to prosper in health even as his soul prospers. He then concluded with an exhortation on the importance of fellowship, mindful of not imitating what is evil but what is good.**
- 3. Thus today’s text reads, “The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well. 3 It gave me great joy when some believers came and testified about your faithfulness to the truth, telling how you continue to walk in it. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. 5 Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers and sisters, even though they are strangers to you. 6 They have told the church about your love. Please send them on their way in a manner that honors God. 7 It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. 8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth. 9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will not welcome us. 10 So when I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, spreading malicious nonsense about us. Not satisfied with that, he even refuses to welcome other believers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. 11 Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true. 13 I have much**

to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. 14 I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name” (3John 1-14).

4. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize today’s sermon as follows. John informs us that:
 - Those who develop agape love relationships with God and man have the great virtues of love, Truth and genuine fellowship with other believers.
 - Love and truth eliminate ego, envy, falsehood and all darkness from anyone who accepts the incarnate Son of God thereby establishing the vertical relationship that helps in building genuine horizontal relationships.
 - Having a vertical relationship with God gives you courage to imitate what is good and not what is evil; you become light and not darkness thereby representing God as His ambassador in all you do. And let the church say, “Amen!”
5. So if you desire to know God and enjoy spiritual fellowship and eternal life with Him, Jesus Christ and His Church we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life. 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 on Calvary, and you will be saved. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?
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