

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

THE BOOK OF ROMANS: PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

July 6, 2014 20. Transformation Through a Living Sacrifice and Humble Service Romans 12:1-8

Both Jews and Gentiles are saved by the mercy and grace of God. This being the case, a saved individual is a new creature in Christ. This is made possible by the transformation which comes from the renewing of the mind. Things are now seen, perceived and done from God's perspective. As such a saved individual no longer conforms to the pattern of doing things in this world but is in a dynamic transformation as the mind is constantly renewed after the things of the spirit. For those who are led by the Spirit are the children of God and do not walk after the things of the flesh. Their service to God is in recognition of the grace and mercies of God and in humility according to their giftedness as bestowed upon them by the Holy Spirit. Their worship is through the offering of themselves (their bodies) as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—to represent a true and proper worship as they fall in love with God and adore Him. Knowing that we are one body in Christ with many members and different functions we must complimenting each other because we all belong to each other.

Thus our text for today reads, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. 3 For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. 4 For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5 so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your [Or the] faith; 7 if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; 8 if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, [Or to provide for others] do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully." (Romans 12:1-8).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about practical Christianity. Practical Christianity involves:

- **Building trustworthy relationships rather than religion:** Being born again or accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and savior; and becoming part of the household of God as a believer.
- **Fervor and not fear** as the Holy Spirit who resides in the believer empower him to make determined commitment to be transformed and so reject conforming to the things of the world because of reverence.
- **Faith and not foolishness:** Faith helps build your commitment to God; thereby trusting Him and obeying Him. Fear makes you rationalize to figure everything from the human view point.
- **Favor and favoritism:** Favor is the grace and mercy from God and man; favoritism is play partiality and games to have your own way according to the desires of the flesh.
- **Ultimately building Character not reputation:** Character is who you are; reputation is what people or who you want people to think you. Christian character reflects Christ in you – the hope of glory!

- Honoring God through obedience because His judgment is always righteous, fair and without favoritism as it is based on truth
- The law being only profitable if it is obeyed as it will point you not only to the guilt of sin but also the righteousness obtained through faith in Jesus Christ
- Know that God is righteous and faithful even though no one is righteous by the works of the law; for all have sinned and fallen short of His glory.
- Believing God to be justified by your faith and not your works.
- Enjoying peace and having eternal hope because we have been justified and reconciled to God and sealed by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- Understanding that death came through the disobedience of the first Adam while eternal life came through the obedience of the second Adam (Jesus Christ).
- Becoming dead to sin, and alive in Christ to serve in the new way of the Spirit.
- My mind and my body becoming a slave to God's Law which is spiritual, holy, righteous, and good, although I as man in the flesh am unspiritual.
- Living in the Spirit, by the Spirit and through the Spirit who provides us the confidence to live by Faith and not by fear.
- Offering myself as a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewing of my mind
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

To become part of the household of God as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and become part of the church to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth through practical Christianity, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! 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 and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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

THE BOOK OF ROMANS: PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

July 13, 2014

21. Love In Action

Romans 12:9-21

Today I have a word for you from the Lord. Listen carefully to it. God does not only want your body as a living sacrifice, but your heart and mind as well. He desires your heart to pour His love into it and your mind to pour out His Spirit into. Out of the mind the Spirit can control the body and out of the heart His Love can flow out so that you can do things decently and in order demonstrating what practical Christianity is. Practical Christianity is love in action. In any good relationship, love is the driving force. Without love no relationship will ever thrive and grow healthily because such a relationship will be full of bitterness, hatred and hostility.

Christianity is a love relationship that involves God the father, Jesus the son, the Holy Spirit and the Children of God, who are born of and lead by the Holy Spirit. Christianity is the only relationship that will continue to grow healthily in a kingdom that has no end because of the presence of God Himself who is Love. This is the hope of Christians! Therefore let your practical Christianity be demonstrated to the world the Love of God in action.

Thus Paul in our text for today advocated, “Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. 10 Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. 11 Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. 12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. 13 Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality. 14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. 15 Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. 16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. [Or be willing to do menial work]. Do not be conceited. 17 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. 19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,”[Deut. 32:35] says the Lord. 20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head” [Proverbs 25:21- 22]. 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:9-21).

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- Building trustworthy relationships rather than religion: Being born again or accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and savior; and becoming part of the household of God as a believer.**
- Fervor and not fear as the Holy Spirit who resides in the believer empower him to make determined commitment to be transformed and so reject conforming to the things of the world because of reverence.**
- Faith and not foolishness: Faith helps build your commitment to God; thereby trusting Him and obeying Him. Fear makes you rationalize to figure everything from the human view point.**
- Favor and favoritism: Favor is the grace and mercy from God and man; favoritism is play partiality and games to have your own way according to the desires of the flesh.**
- Ultimately building Character not reputation: Character is who you are; reputation is what people or who you want people to think you. Christian character reflects Christ in you – the hope of glory!**
- Honoring God through obedience because His judgment is always righteous, fair and without favoritism as it is based on truth**
- The law being only profitable if it is obeyed as it will point you not only to the guilt of sin but also the righteousness obtained through faith in Jesus Christ**
- Know that God is righteous and faithful even though no one is righteous by the works of the law; for all have sinned and fallen short of His glory.**
- Believing God to be justified by your faith and not your works.**
- Enjoying peace and having eternal hope because we have been justified and reconciled to God and sealed by the indwelling Holy Spirit.**
- Understanding that death came through the disobedience of the first Adam while eternal life came through the obedience of the second Adam (Jesus Christ).**
- Becoming dead to sin, and alive in Christ to serve in the new way of the Spirit.**

- My mind and my body becoming a slave to God's Law which is spiritual, holy, righteous, and good, although I as man in the flesh am unspiritual.
- Living in the Spirit, by the Spirit and through the Spirit who provides us the confidence to live by Faith and not by fear.
- Offering myself as a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewing of my mind
- Love in action
- And let the church say, "Amen!"

To become part of the household of God as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and become part of the church to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth through practical Christianity, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! 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 and become part of God's family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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

THE BOOK OF ROMANS: PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

July 20, 2014

22. Submission to Governing Authorities

Romans 13:1-7

First, why do people fear Governing Authorities? It is because they are not doing the right things but the wrong ones. Anyone who does the right is usually commended; whereas if you do the wrong thing you will be reprimanded or punished. Secondly, why is it apparent that human beings generally try to ignore, downplay, outplay, outsmart, avoid or rebel against governing authorities? The answer is simple – people have a tendency towards a state of entropy (disorder) or chaos and do not want orderliness or organization. Everyone wants to live anyhow in the way they choose or see fit. However, God desires order and decency. This is why God admonished believers through Paul that everything must be done decently and in order. God, therefore, has established governing authorities for humans to ensure order and decency; and to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Thus God has established governing authorities at home, Church, School, workplace, cities, counties, states, nations and the world. There must be someone or some people responsible in each organization to hold accountable or that make a final call so that things remain decently and in order. And this is why God does not only want your body as a living sacrifice, but your heart and mind as well. He desires your heart to pour His love into it and your mind to pour out His Spirit into. For out of the mind the Spirit can control the body and out of the heart His Love can flow out so that you can do the right things and do them decently and in order, thereby demonstrating what practical Christianity is. As we

learned last Sunday, Practical Christianity is love in action leading to good relationships, which ensure order and decency. Submission to governing authorities therefore ensures order and decency in our actions. The priority in God's order is God, Family (man, woman, children), work and then other things.

Thus Paul in our text for today advocated, "Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. 3 For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. 4 For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience. 6 This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. 7 Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor" (Romans 13:1-7).

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- Living in the Spirit, by the Spirit and through the Spirit who provides us the confident to live by Faith and not by fear.
- Offering myself as a living sacrifice and be transformed by the renewing of my mind
- Love in action
- Order and decency
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

To become part of the household of God as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and become part of the church to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth through practical Christianity, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you. If you have not, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. I hope you will make room in your heart for Him today! 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 and become part of God’s family and kingdom. Then ask Him in prayers to empower you through the Holy Spirit with wisdom, courage and boldness to do the work of the Church to cause its continual growth. May God bless you as you humbly open your heart to provide room for Him as the choir leads us in a song!

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Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. R. D. Jacobs, Evangelist

THE BOOK OF ROMANS: PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY

July 27, 2014

23. Love Fulfills the Law So Be Alert

Romans 13:8-14

The Apostle Paul urges the Roman Christians to present themselves as living sacrifices holy and pleasing to God, in view of His Mercy. Paul then admonishes that all acts of worship be done in Love. (Romans 12) It may seem out of place for Paul then to address Submission to the Authorities in Chapter 13, but when you are dealing with Love you are addressing a Love and Honor for others. Paul says, if you owe taxes then pay your taxes, revenue then give your revenue, if respect then give respect or Honor show honor. In fact Paul would sum it up as this, “Owe no man anything but to Love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law”. (Romans 13:6-8)

We have understood Paul’s proclamation that we are not justified by the observance of the Law but rather by Faith. (Romans 3:21) We do need to note that this does not exclude us from God’s moral law or from upholding it. (Romans 3:31) The 10 commandments have been viewed in time pasts as a Christian’s Ethic guide or moral compass. It is not like other Old Testament ceremonial laws that have no meaning any longer because what they represented or foreshadowed has been fulfilled. Neither is it like Old Testament civil laws that pertained to the Children of Israel for a specific time and location. God’s moral law for all Christians has not changed. In looking at the 10 Commandments found in Exodus Chapter 20 verses 1-17 we find what can be called “The 2 Tables of the “Law” – Commands to God and Commands in regards

to on another. The First 4 commandments deal with Man to God and the Final 6 deal with Man to Man.

- VII. Thou shalt have no other gods before me
- VIII. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image
- IX. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain
- X. Remember the Sabbath, to keep it Holy

- I. Honor thy mother and thy father
- II. Thou shalt not kill
- III. Thou shalt not commit adultery
- IV. Thou shalt not steal
- V. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor
- VI. Thou shalt not covet.....anything that is thy neighbor's

The two tables can be summed up as Jesus did in Matthew 22:37-40, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul and with and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it Love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets. (Lev. 19:18) Paul encourages all Christians to Love and Honor God as well as one another.

The reason the Apostle Paul places an emphasis on Love is because of the present time. We are nearer to our salvation then when we first became believers. Truly each day we live is another day that we are nearing the Lord's return. This why Paul is so urgent in his calling to Wake Up from slumbering for the night is far spent and the Day is approaching. (Rom. 13: 11,12) It is time to put aside the deeds and works of darkness and put on the Armor of Light. It is Time for us to behave decently and no longer make provision for our flesh to fulfill its lusts. It is time for us to be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 13: 13,14) The question may be asked, "How do I put on Jesus and not make provision for the flesh to fulfill its lust?" By the impartation of the Holy Spirit upon our receiving Christ, the more we yield to the Holy Spirit the more and more we will begin to look like Jesus. The more we yield ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit the more and more we will begin to think, talk, and walk like Jesus!!

Our writer Paul will deal more with our relationship with one another in Chapters 14 &15. But, in order for our relationship with one another to be right, first our Relationship with God needs to be right or I will continue to be an offense to God and to my neighbor. As Paul covered in the first part of his epistle, we must understand what God did for us through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Once you accept Christ and His Love you then know how to Love your neighbor. When you know the Love of God for yourself then you know how to share that Love. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever would believe in Him would not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16) This is the Love of God shared to us for salvation.

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