

THE BOOK OF CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

April 5, 2015

32. Transformation into His Image

2Corinthians 4: 1-18

We are still on the sermon series: “THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS”. A Spiritual Church is the body of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from adherence to attributes of the pagan society from which it has been called out of. Such was the case with the Church at Corinth.

It is usually an easy choice to conform to the order of popular events and patterns of the world. Jesus or Paul and other apostles faced a lot of critics and skeptics as well as great oppositions because they did not conform to the world. As such Paul wrote in Romans 12, “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” (Romans 12:1-3). When one is in the new covenant, they live to please God. The old covenant when read presents a veil but the new covenant always transforms the believer into His image. The old covenant is based on the written letter that kills, but the new covenant in Christ is based on love, faith and the Holy Spirit as driving forces that lead to life. Therefore every believer has been called to be minister of the new covenant that spreads the aroma of Christ because we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. Those saved begin to reflect the image of Christ as letters that people read daily and make sense of the transformation and crave to be transformed too. As we commemorate Easter, let us remember Christ came to establish the new covenant whereby when we minister to believers in Christ, the result of our ministry, become our letters known and read by everyone.

Thus our text for today begins, “Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? 2 You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. 3 You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. 4 Such confidence we have through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, transitory though it was, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9 If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness!(P) 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! 12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away.

17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2Corinthians 3: 1-18).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Spiritual church. It is:

- **The church of God**
- **The body of believers in Christ Jesus**
- **Enriched with grace in speech and knowledge**
- **Not lacking any spiritual gift**
- **Waiting eagerly for our Lord Jesus to be revealed**
- **Kept firm to the end so that it will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**
- **Called by a faithful God into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**
- **Individuals whose conduct, character and calling reflect a relationship with God Almighty!**
- **Where there is agreement in what the brethren say**
- **Where there be no divisions among brethren, but perfect unity in mind and thought**
- **Where there are no quarrels**
- **Where everyone follows Jesus Christ because they were baptized in His Name**
- **Where the gospel is preached—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power**
- **Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.**
- **Where there are no lawsuits among believers; but Shepherds direct the affairs of the church towards great relationships through forgiveness and reconciliation as led by the Holy Spirit.**
- **Members of Christ who cannot practice sexual immorality but remain faithful to Christ and their spouses if they have any.**
- **Where obedience to God's commands is what counts.**
- **Where you sacrifice for the sake of the weak**
- **Where the ministers are respected and provided for**
- **Where the use of Freedom is exercised with self-discipline**
- **Where decency and order prevail especially in worship**
- **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are utilized in ministry**
- **Where Unity exists in its structure and diversity in its function.**
- **Where love is the excellent way of exercising the Spiritual gifts**
- **Where intelligibility is exercised in worship**
- **Where everything is done decently and in order**
- **Where the resurrection of Jesus Christ becomes the core of the gospel.**
- **Where believers enjoy the comfort that God provides them and in turn use it to comfort others who are troubled.**
- **Where the word of God is not peddled for profit**
- **And let the church say, "Amen!"**

To become part of the Spiritual Church as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth, 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 that God may commend you ultimately. 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 CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

April 12, 2015

33. Present Weakness and Resurrection Life

2Corinthians 4: 1-18

We are still on the sermon series: "THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS". A Spiritual Church is the body of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from adherence to attributes of the pagan society from which it has been called out of. Such was the case with the Church at Corinth.

In the Christian journey as we travel this path of life to our eternal destiny, the road is not easy since we are faced with so many sticky situations along the path. One of such sticky situations is deception, especially in these last days where many are deceiving and are being deceived. It is pointless for Christians to lose heart because through God's mercy we have been entrusted with the ministry of the gospel in the new covenant. This is the treasure that we have in this earthen vessel, called our bodies. For we preach not ourselves but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For this reason, while in this earthen vessel we face various sticky situations such that we are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. Our choice is the eternal destiny with Jesus; for the light and momentary troubles we face through our sticky situations are achieving for us an eternal weight of glory. So we do not depend on the things that we see but those that are unseen since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

Thus our text for today begins, "Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. 2 Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. 5 For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," [Gen.

1:3] made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. 12 So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you. 13 It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." [Psalm 116:10 (see Septuagint)]. Since we have that same spirit of [Or Spirit-given] faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you to himself. 15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God. 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. 17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2Corinthians 4:1-18).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Spiritual church. It is:

- The church of God
- The body of believers in Christ Jesus
- Enriched with grace in speech and knowledge
- Not lacking any spiritual gift
- Waiting eagerly for our Lord Jesus to be revealed
- Kept firm to the end so that it will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ
- Called by a faithful God into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Individuals whose conduct, character and calling reflect a relationship with God Almighty!
- Where there is agreement in what the brethren say
- Where there be no divisions among brethren, but perfect unity in mind and thought
- Where there are no quarrels
- Where everyone follows Jesus Christ because they were baptized in His Name
- Where the gospel is preached—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power
- Believers that understand the roles of followers; know the foundations that has already be laid and are building on it; and know that fundamentals of faith to avoid foolishness.
- Where there are no lawsuits among believers; but Shepherds direct the affairs of the church towards great relationships through forgiveness and reconciliation as led by the Holy Spirit.
- Members of Christ who cannot practice sexual immorality but remain faithful to Christ and their spouses if they have any.
- Where obedience to God's commands is what counts.
- Where you sacrifice for the sake of the weak
- Where the ministers are respected and provided for
- Where the use of Freedom is exercised with self-discipline
- Where decency and order prevail especially in worship

- The gifts of the Holy Spirit are utilized in ministry
- Where Unity exists in its structure and diversity in its function.
- Where love is the excellent way of exercising the Spiritual gifts
- Where intelligibility is exercised in worship
- Where everything is done decently and in order
- Where the resurrection of Jesus Christ becomes the core of the gospel.
- Where believers enjoy the comfort that God provides them and in turn use it to comfort others who are troubled.
- Where the word of God is not peddled for profit
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

To become part of the Spiritual Church as a believer, and be saved, have peace and happiness; and to do the work of the church with hope to cause healthy church growth, 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 that God may commend you ultimately. 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 CORINTHIANS: THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS

April 19, 2015

34. Awaiting the New Body

2Corinthians 5: 1-10

We are still on the sermon series: “THE SPIRITUAL CHURCH WITH STICKY SITUATIONS”. A Spiritual Church is the body of believers who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and the indwelling Holy Spirit in-charge of their affairs. Yet, every Spiritual Church has Sticky Situations arising from adherence to attributes of the pagan society from which it has been called out of. Such was the case with the Church at Corinth.

In this pilgrims journey that believers are undertaking requires great endurances. During this process the body is wearing out and getting tired because of the sticky situations we find ourselves in. Paul reminds the Church at Corinth, as well as us, that sometimes we groan and yearn that we reach our eternal destiny sooner because there is so much false teachings and deception. Yet we cannot reach this eternal destiny without a change or transformation in this earthly tent, the body. For the corrupt must first put on incorruption, and the mortal put on immortality. Definitely, we shall not all sleep but we shall all be changed before our final eternal destiny. So we eagerly wait for the transformation of our bodies to new ones. The transformation begins with repentance from sin; believe in Christ Jesus who died for the

remission of sins, and the deposition of the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a seal for our salvation. Knowing that this body or earthly tent is our temporary dwelling place that decays with time, we always groan and yearn hopefully for our permanent dwelling, our eternal house in heaven, a building from God not built with human hands. So we groan and yearn to be clothed with a new body for our heavenly dwelling. The ultimate is that it is preferable to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. Therefore we must continue this pilgrim's journey constantly pleasing the Lord; living by faith and not by sight. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

Thus our text for today begins, "For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. 2 Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, 3 because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. 4 For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 Now the one who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 6 Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. 7 For we live by faith, not by sight. 8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9 So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad" (2Corinthians 5:1-10).

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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached Evangelist R. D. Jacobs

The Book of Corinthians

The Spiritual Church with Sticky Situations

April 26, 2015

35. The Ministry of Reconciliation 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

As we read 2nd Corinthians, there is a personal sense to the letter that shows through as no other letters of Paul. In fact we should consider it a "letter", more as we understand a traditionally written letter, than just a theologian's discourse. Corinth was a place that the Apostle Paul had to minister to through many trials and tribulations to spread the Gospel. However after Paul's ministry there of spreading the Gospel, establishing the Church and departing for Ephesus (during one of his longer stays) word arrivals to him that all is not well at the Corinthian Church.

As we consider Reconciliation, one sticky situation that quickly arose in the Corinthian Church was hostility towards Paul and his ministry there. I would then suggest we ask the question of the text, “Why was there hostility towards Paul and his ministry?” In light of the context and background of their relationship, it may be that some in Corinth are remembering Paul for who he was. The persecutor of the Church, the zealous Pharisee, and the question may have arisen what authority does Paul have to be called an Apostle outside of the 12 that all knew?

Due to hostility, the Apostle by the will of God, defends his ministry despite the fact that he should not have to commend or praise or get approval of it from the Corinthians. Paul’s ministry mission can be understood in light of the universal judgment of God of all nations; Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord we persuade men. (1 Cor. 5:11) This is Paul’s main ministry motivation and this is solely from God. In the third chapter of 2nd Corinthians the Apostle explains this New Covenant ministry that has been wrought by the Holy Spirit and is based on Hope, Mercy, Faith and points to Jesus – the very image of God.

This honesty in his ministry leads him to say, not only does God know me but you know me Corinthians. Paul knew that God judges the heart. (1Cor. 5:11-14) So Paul’s ministry that consisted of the messages that there is forgiveness of sin for everyone because one died for all (1 Cor. 5:14-15), and that anyone that is in Christ is a new creature (1 Cor. 5:16-17) can be summed up in the word Reconciliation. When Paul says that God reconciles us to himself, we can not overlook what is meant: The offended is going to his offender to make right the relationship! Normally we would wait until the person who offended us comes and says they are “sorry”, but God came to us in the Person of Jesus Christ for the forgiving of sin, that caused enmity, and to reconcile our relationship to Him! (1 Cor. 5:18-21)

As skillful and careful of a writer as Paul was, this discussion of the ministry of Reconciliation had to point towards the reconciliation that he hoped to see in Corinth. My prayer is that we see this Reconciliation to God by all people by Faith in Jesus Christ and forgiveness by his death. I say as Paul said, “Be Reconciled to God!”