

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST AND HIS COVENANT

October 4, 2015

14. God Disciplines His Children

Hebrews 12: 4-13

After the writer of Hebrews discussed faith examples and experiences in Chapter 11 to encourage the Hebraic believers not to return to the shadow under the Judaism but stick with the substance in Christianity, he opened chapter 12 with the following remarkable exhortations: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:1-3). Following these remarkable exhortations, the writer quickly switched to the subject of discipline, which is the focus of our discussion today, specifically on God disciplines His Children.

Church folks in this generation resent discipline and desire to be left alone to do as they please. But let me state clearly that God disciplines His children because He desires them to live according to His will. Discipline through knowledge of the Scriptures is the process by which the spiritual improvement, usefulness and efficiency of a child of God is promoted till maturity. Discipline also involves effecting the punishment for wrongdoing to create self-control and persuasion to refrain from sinning. Hence two types of disciplines exist: formative and corrective disciplines. Formative discipline is one that is acquired with growth and development into maturity as one seriously engages in meditating on the word of God and prayers for direction to live according to God’s Will; while corrective discipline is enforced for public offences. And God knows that we need both of these disciplines to run with perseverance the Christian race that is set for us according to God’s will. However, most people struggle with discipline as we often wrestle with sin by succumbing to it without much resistant. Almost everywhere we turn, the enticement of sin is right before us and tempting situations surround us daily.

Thus our text of the day states, “In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. 5 And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, 6 because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” [Prov. 3:11-12 (see Septuagint)]. 7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? 8 If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. 9 Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! 10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. 12 Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. 13 “Make level paths for your feet,” [Prov. 4:26] so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed” (Hebrews 12:4-13).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Superiority of Jesus Christ. He is superior as:

- **A much better God's Spokesman than the prophets because He created them.**
- **He is much better than angels by virtue of His Deity and humanity and they worship Him.**
- **A merciful and faithful high priest of a more superior order in service to God**
- **He provided atonement for the sins of human beings and provided redemption and salvation for mankind. Therefore He is the redeemer of mankind.**
- **By his death he broke the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death**
- **He is the greatest royal high priest in the order of Melchizedek**
- **His new covenant is better than the old covenant and because of it we can truly worship in Spirit and in truths**
- **He is a better sanctuary for worshipping**
- **He is a better sacrifice and “the Real thing” and not the shadow**
- **the pioneer and perfecter of faith**
- **He disciplines His followers to become holy as Him because He loves them**
- **And let the church say, “Amen!”**

To have a relationship with the superior Christ as a believer, be saved, and have freedom from slavery to sin, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. 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!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

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

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST AND HIS COVENANT

October 11, 2015

15. Warning and Encouragement about Fear and Joy

Hebrews 12:14-29

Fear is a terrible thing that can cripple you from being functional in all respect and subject you into destructive behaviors. Whereas joy which stems from inner peace drives you to be functional in all respect and drives you towards constructive behavior. Examine yourself for a moment and see what state you are right now. What is controlling your behavior, fear or joy? The Hebrew believers were in a state of fear and so many of them started turning back to Judaism, which was their comfort zone to escape the persecution they were experiencing. The writer of Hebrew in our text for today quickly reminded them that the mountain of fear in the wilderness was by far less inferior to the mountain of joy they were experiencing in Christ the mediator of the new

covenant; implying that Christianity is by far superior to Judaism.

In this generation, folks seem to constantly operate in the state of fear. Fear especially the fear or reverence of God is good. However, scary fear is not from God because God is love and love casts away fear. It was because God SO loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. And if God be for us, who in the world can be against us? Recall Christ died to give us victory over the fear of sin, death and Satan. So the writer of Hebrews after discussing faith examples and experiences in Chapter 11 began to encourage the Hebraic believers not to return to the shadow under the Judaism but stick with the substance in Christianity. Then he opened chapter 12 with the following remarkable exhortations: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart” (Hebrews 12:1-3). Following these remarkable exhortations, the writer quickly switched to the subject of discipline, specifically on the fact that God disciplines His Children. Discipline keeps believer in check to know that they belong to God now and so they cannot allow fear to overwhelm and overcome than rather they should joy in the Lord because Christianity is the real deal. In Christianity we enjoy love, peace, joy and all the fruit of the spirit. All we need to do is live in peace with everyone and be holy as God is holy; for without holiness no one will see God.

Thus our text of the day states, “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. 16 See that no one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. 17 Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, he could not change what he had done. 18 You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; 19 to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, 20 because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.”[Exodus 19:12, 13c]. 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”[See Deut. 9:19]. 22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, 24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. 25 See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? 26 At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.”[Haggai 2:6]. 27 The words “once more” indicate the removing of what can be shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, 29 for our “God is a consuming fire.”[Deut. 4:24]” (Hebrews 12:4-13).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Superiority of Jesus Christ. He is superior as:

- **A much better God's Spokesman than the prophets because He created them.**
- **He is much better than angels by virtue of His Deity and humanity and they worship Him.**
- **A merciful and faithful high priest of a more superior order in service to God**
- **He provided atonement for the sins of human beings and provided redemption and salvation for mankind. Therefore He is the redeemer of mankind.**
- **By his death he broke the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death**
- **He is the greatest royal high priest in the order of Melchizedek**
- **His new covenant is better than the old covenant and because of it we can truly worship in Spirit and in truths**
- **He is a better sanctuary for worshipping**
- **He is a better sacrifice and “the Real thing” and not the shadow**
- **the pioneer and perfecter of faith**
- **He disciplines His followers to become holy as Him because He loves them**
- **He is the mediator of the new covenant**
- **And let the church say, “Amen!”**

To have a relationship with the superior Christ as a believer, be saved, and have freedom from slavery to sin, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. 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!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don't you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

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

**PREACHED AT 103RD CHURCH ANNIVERSARY, PLEASANT VALLEY MISSIONARY
BAPTIST CHURCH, CAMP HILL, ALABAMA, Rev. Michael Heard, Pastor**

*Theme: And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus
(Philippians 4:19).*

October 9, 2015

Depending on God's All Sufficiency

Philippians 4:15-19

Text: “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.”

1. Pray / Acknowledge

A. God, Pastor/Ministers, Wife/Pastor's & Ministers' Wives, Family/Friends

2. Introduction:

- I want to commend Pleasant Valley for its continual existence for these 103 years that we are celebrating on today. I thank Pastor Heard for joining the list of all the pastors that have shaped and continue to shape the body of Christ at Pleasant Valley. Jesus said, “...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18. Jesus in building His Church appoints shepherds to lead it. The job of the pastor is not easy because he has God as his overseer. He is a shepherd appointed by God to lead His congregation into all knowledge and wisdom. Jeremiah 3:15 states “...I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding”. The pastor is a shepherd and not a hireling. A hireling is somebody who is motivated to work only for pay (money). Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. 13 The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep” (John 10:11-13).
- Our people are yet to fully understand the difference between being a Christian (part of body of Christ) and being religious; and difference between a pastor and a preacher. A pastor must preach but a preacher does not necessarily have to be a pastor. It is just like a preacher must be a teacher but a teacher is not necessarily a preacher. We have had many a problem within the black Baptist Church because the congregation sometimes calls a preacher to be pastor (or called a pastor) but expecting him to be a preacher and not a pastor. Preaching is teaching the truth with a persuasion to convert/win people over to the kingdom of God. Teaching is bringing a subject matter to a clear understanding of the pupils.
- The job of a pastor is therefore more effective when he depends on God's all sufficiency and spends time in the presence of God and Jesus Christ at all times since his preaching is to persuade people to come into the kingdom of God and Christ to enjoy an intimate relationships with God and other believers. Acknowledging God's presence at all times helps the pastor, who is the under shepherd, to engage in equipping the church for the five tenets of ministering that Jesus employed, which include worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and outreach ministry. The driving forces for ministering this way (the Jesus Way) are love and the Holy Spirit. Otherwise your Modus Operandi (techniques) will differ from that of Jesus Christ the Chief Shepherd.
- The pastor is an under shepherd and not a hireling in the kingdom of God. The shepherd must therefore lead, protect, feed, guide and care for God's flock. Hence the pastor's primary responsibility is to teach the congregation (by his example) to get

involved in the five tenets of ministering: worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and outreach. When the church fails to understand the roles and responsibilities of the pastor and each of its members, it ceases to be a church but an organization full of egos.

- Someone would then ask me: what is the church? The church is the body believers who have accepted and put their trust in Jesus Christ. It is an organism that must depend on God's all sufficiency.

3. Philippians 4:15-19

If the Church is to continue to grow, prosper and be viable in this evil world until the Day of the Lord, it must develop intimate relationships by depending on God's all sufficiency. If God is to supply all our needs according to his richest in glory, it is for the purpose of the Church (a group of believers) to develop sharing relationships, sacrificial relationships and symbiotic relationships.

a) Sharing Relationships

Intimate relationships can and do evolve from sincere sharing of one's resources with others. You have heard the adage "Love is Caring and Sharing". Indeed, sharing is caring and caring is sharing but you cannot do any of these without love. For no sincere gifts can be giving without first receiving the gift of God (Jesus Christ) and being empowered by the love of God and the Holy Spirit. Love for God, and the presence and power of the Holy Spirit drives the church to share, which cannot happen without first getting acquainted with the gospel. For instance, the believers in the early church shared everything in common, and praised God as they enjoyed fellowship and favor of all people. Acts 2:42-47 reads: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved". Additionally, our text for today begins, "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."

b) Sacrificial Relationships

It is love and the Holy Spirit that would also drive the church to engage in sacrificial relationships. The church will give sacrificially knowing that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and it is with the measure you gift that it will be meted to you and even with better and greater benefits. This is because God is pleased with sacrificial relationships since He initiated it. Sacrificial relationships remove egocentrism. Our text for today continued, "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". Indeed, sacrificial relationships are pleasing fragrance to God.

c) Symbiotic Relationships

This is a relationship where each party in the relationship benefits. For the Church to share and give sacrificial for kingdom building it must engage in total dependence on God by believers and interdependency among the believers (the church). The survival of the church depends wholly on God's provision to the church and its members being interdependent on each other. You see, no man is an island! When you provide for others, others will provide for you and ultimate God's all sufficiency will meet everyone's needs. The early church had a strong fellowship where they has everything in common, sharing and caring for each other! Thus our text concludes by saying, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus".

And let the church say, "Amen"

And if you are reading this on the Internet and desire to understand the Modus Operandi of the Church and its leadership, the starting point is to pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior. If you just did that, write and tell us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org?

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

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST AND HIS COVENANT

October 18, 2015

16. Concluding Exhortations

Hebrews 13:1-19

As we come to the concluding Chapter of the epistle to the Hebrews, the writer now focuses on the fundamental principles or doctrines of Christianity. He is quick to remind his audience that since Christianity is the real deal they should adhere to those fundamental doctrines of the faith. Since Christ and his covenant are superior to Judaism and the old covenant, Christians must practice the basis of the new covenant – which is love. The doctrine of love encompasses a lot including morals, good conduct, faith, and hospitality, confidence in leaders, holiness and worship

Thus our text of the day states, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. 3 Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering. 4 Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral. 5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." [Deut. 31:6]. 6 So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" [Psalm 118:6-7]. 7 Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith. 8 Jesus Christ is the same

yesterday and today and forever. 9 Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teachings. It is good for our hearts to be strengthened by grace, not by eating ceremonial foods, which is of no benefit to those who do so. 10 We have an altar from which those who minister at the tabernacle have no right to eat. 11 The high priest carries the blood of animals into the Most Holy Place as a sin offering, but the bodies are burned outside the camp. 12 And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood. 13 Let us, then, go to him outside the camp, bearing the disgrace he bore. 14 For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that is to come. 15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. 16 And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. 17 Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you. 18 Pray for us. We are sure that we have a clear conscience and desire to live honorably in every way. 19 I particularly urge you to pray so that I may be restored to you soon” (Hebrews 12:4-13).

Mt Traveler members, as we conclude the following are some main points to remember about the Superiority of Jesus Christ. He is superior as:

- A much better God’s Spokesman than the prophets because He created them.
- He is much better than angels by virtue of His Deity and humanity and they worship Him.
- A merciful and faithful high priest of a more superior order in service to God
- He provided atonement for the sins of human beings and provided redemption and salvation for mankind. Therefore He is the redeemer of mankind.
- By his death he broke the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death
- He is the greatest royal high priest in the order of Melchizedek
- His new covenant is better than the old covenant and because of it we can truly worship in Spirit and in truths
- He is a better sanctuary for worshipping
- He is a better sacrifice and “the Real thing” and not the shadow
- the pioneer and perfecter of faith
- He disciplines His followers to become holy as Him because He loves them
- He is the mediator of the new covenant
- And let the church say, “Amen!”

To have a relationship with the superior Christ as a believer, be saved, and have freedom from slavery to sin, you must first know Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior and then allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to be His ambassador. 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!

If you are reading this on the Internet why don’t you pray asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and savior, then write us at pastordatiri@mttraveler.org? If you are a child of God and this message has blessed or helped to you, please write and tell us also.

October 25, 2015 Rev. R. D. Jacobs - Preacher

**Sermon Theme: THE BOOK OF HEBREWS: THE SUPERIORITY OF CHRIST AND HIS COVENANT –
Benediction and Final Greetings – (Text: Hebrews 13:20-25)**

No sermon synopsis submitted by Rev. Jacobs