

Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama

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

THE EPISTLES OF THESSALONIANS: THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

October 7, 2012

6. Believers Who Have Died

1Thessalonians 4:1-12

1. As we continue with the series: THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH using the EPISTLES OF THESSALONIANS let us consider Believers Who Have Died. Death is a necessary end as it is the gateway to eternity. Since death is the gateway to eternity, it will be nice to know where one will spend eternity. A man born of a woman must die someday if the Lord tarries. Two possible ways that man will exit this earth are death and the rapture. All men will die if the Lord tarries in His second coming. However, if He returns quickly then believers will be raptured. For it is appointment unto man once to die then the judgment. If this is the case, what will happen to Believers Who Have Died? What is the hope of the Church (group of believers)? Should it grieve like the rest of mankind who die without hope of the resurrection to eternal life and whose founders and leaders of their religions are dead? You see believers go to sleep in death! And anyone who sleeps, wakes up again.
2. Thus our text for today reads, “Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words” (1Thessalonians 4:13-18).
3. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize this sermon as follows:
 - Death is the gateway to eternity; not the end of life but the beginning of eternity.
 - Everyone living now will die someday if the Lord tarries; otherwise some of us will witness the rapture at His second coming.
 - The believers who have died are actually asleep in death. And anyone who sleeps wakes up. Remember Lazarus?
 - The resurrection of the believers is the comforting hope of Christians. So Christians should not sorrow and grieve like rest of mankind because the resurrection of believers asleep in death will precede the rapture of the believers at second coming of Jesus.
 - There is going to be a big reunion of all believers when Christ returns. Afterwards, there will be no more parting and so we will be with the Lord forever (for eternity)! And let the church say, “Amen!” Let me end with this chorus:

**“When we get to heaven, at the Marriage Supper;
When the Saints shall gather, at the last Assembly;
No more heart breaking, no more sad parting;
Farewell to sorrow, victory at last!” (Victory at last)**

4. So if you desire to fully understand the hope of the church and partake in this great reunion for eternity, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. 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 as well as become part of God's family and kingdom. Then live to please God by faith, hope and love. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?

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Mt. Traveler Missionary Baptist Church, Waverly, Alabama
Synopsis of Sermon Preached by Rev. Chris Johns, Youth Minister

THE EPISTLES OF THESSALONIANS: THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

October 14, 2012

7. The day of the Lord

1Thessalonians 5:1-11

Intro: Thief in the night – Illustration

1. Time uncertain, can't mark calendar
2. Believer and Unbeliever standpoint of focus
3. Element of surprise
4. Background to this point
 1. Acts 16:9 – Vision to help man in Macedonia
 2. Thessalonica was capital and main Roman port
 3. Church founded on second missionary journey
 4. Acts 17:1-9 : Church established in Thessalonica
 1. Vs. 5 – Unbelieving Jews
 1. Lewd fellows of baser sort – unlearned &
 2. Mob to Jason's House
 5. Paul travels to Berea, Athens (Timothy Sent), Corinth
 6. Timothy Reports back – Letter sent while in Corinth
 7. Epistle focus on three areas
 1. Praise under persecution
 2. Instruct them on holy living
 3. Correct them on any misunderstandings on Jesus return
 1. Vs. 1-3 – No need to tell you about the time
 1. It will be a surprise for the unbeliever
 2. There will be no warning – God not slack in his promise

3. Vs. 3 People will be talking about peace and safety – Funeral unexpected
 4. Matt 24:37 Jesus called it the coming of the son of man
 5. Travail of a pregnant woman – Labor Pains
 1. Destruction will be upon them – Unbeliever- New heaven/earth
 2. Questions like – Can this really be happening? Catastrophic situations
 3. No escape from the pain
2. People of the light of day Vs. 4-7
1. We not Ignorant- sleeping with one eye open
 2. Take advantage of every opportunity to serve Jesus
 3. Ephesians 5:15-16 – Careful how you live, not unwise but wise & making the most of every opportunity because the days or evil.
3. Put on the Armor of Faith,,,Love & Hope
1. Isa 59:17 Jesus put that armor, Eph 6:14-17
4. God has not appointed us to wrath Vs. 9-11
1. Christ is coming, everything in bible has come to pass
 2. He died for us, Salvation through his death
 3. Hope of resurrection – Go to prepare a place for you and will return
 4. Comfort one another with these thoughts of my return
 5. Obligation to pick one another up with encouragement
 6. Build one another up
 7. This is why we fellowship and not forsake the assembly
 8. Lift up the name of Jesus
 9. Don't focus on the Circumstance – Remember the promise
 10. He took all the shame and guilt on the cross
 11. Christ is alive and will return

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

THE EPISTLES OF THESSALONIANS: THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

October 21, 2012

8. Various Exhortations and Final Instructions

1Thessalonians 5:12-28

1. The second coming of Christ is of paramount importance because it is the ultimate hope for the believers. Therefore, the importance and seriousness of this second coming of

Christ warrants that we have various exhortations and final instructions to be prepared for it. He is coming for a pure Church and 1John 3:1-3 states “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. 3 All those who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure”. As we continue with the series: **THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH** using the **EPISTLES OF THESSALONIANS** let me remind you that Christ’s resurrection and second coming are what provide believers with eternal hope. He is coming back again so as to bring about a great re-union of all believers to be with the Lord forever. But about the times and dates when Christ is coming again you know very well that no one know and that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. In fact while people are saying, “Peace and safety,” suddenly destruction will come on them, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. You are not ignorant that this day should surprise you like a thief. After all, you believers are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. Therefore we must not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. You all know that those who sleep do sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Remember he died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep when He comes again, we may live together with him for eternity. Moreover, all physical, political and prophetic events are all pointing to the eschatological times. This is why we must be prepared for His second coming and this is why Paul provided various exhortations and final instructions to the believers in Thessalonica and now to all believers all over the world.

2. Thus our text for today reads, “Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. 13 Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other. 14 And we urge you, brothers and sisters, warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. 15 Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else. 16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not treat prophecies with contempt 21 but test them all; hold on to what is good, 22 reject every kind of evil. 23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. 25 Brothers and sisters, pray for us. 26 Greet all God’s people with a holy kiss. 27 I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you” (1Thessalonians 5:12-28).
3. Mt Traveler members, as we conclude this sermon please allow me to summarize this sermon as follows:
 - The second coming of Christ is of paramount importance as it is the ultimate hope for the believers.
 - But about the times and dates when Christ is coming again you know very well that no one know; and that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night

- Remember he died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep when He comes again, we may live together with him for eternity
 - All those who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure and is coming for pure church. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you totally. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Be sure to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Please hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work and live in peace with each other.
 - Always warn those who are idle and disruptive, encourage the disheartened, help the weak, be patient with everyone. Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else
 - Rejoice always, pray continually, and give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
 - Do not quench the Spirit and do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil
 - Greet all God's people with a holy and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. And let the church say, "Amen!"
4. So if you desire to fully understand the hope of the church and partake in this great reunion for eternity, we invite you to come, repent, and humbly accept Jesus Christ into your heart and life by faith. 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 as well as become part of God's family and kingdom. Then live to please God by faith, hope and love. May God bless you as you humbly come to Him while the Choir leads us in a song?

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

THE EPISTLES OF THESSALONIANS: THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH

October 28, 2012 9. Thanksgiving and Prayer, God's Final Judgment and Glory 2Thes. 1:1-12

The basic truth is that Paul's ministry in Thessalonica, from beginning to end, was only three Sabbaths (less than a month) but in this short time the young Thessalonians had Spiritually Grown! This news of their Growth was the good report that Timothy brought to Paul, after he went to see how they were doing in the Faith. The encouraging fact was that even in such a short time the Thessalonians came to an understanding of the Basics of the Faith. Timothy reported that their Faith in God had grown, love towards one another had increased, and that they had a yearning to see the Lord Jesus return. So we can see in Paul's first letter to them (1 Thessalonians) that he only had to encourage and comfort them in their new Faith to continue to grow past any questions or

doubts that may arise. So Paul addresses some common questions that may arise with these new believers. He deals with their pagan society and its temptation to accept unmoral sexual standards (1 Thess. 4:1-6). He addresses Brotherly love (1 Thess. 4:9-10), and what happens to Believers who die before Christ returns (1 Thess. 4:13-17). He even instructs them concerning times and dates when the Lord will return (1 Thess. 5:1-2) and those who had given up working and relied on others to supply their needs (1 Thess. 4:11-12).

The interesting fact is that Paul's second letter to the Believers in Thessalonica is dated as being written shortly after His first letter, maybe a matter of weeks. In this second epistle to them his tone changes from encouraging and comforting to correcting and balancing what is unbalanced and in error among the Believers. For Paul to write them again so soon after his first letter and to deal with some of the same topics again lets us know that instruction and correction is needed to continually grow in the Christian Faith. Paul emphasizes this in his second letter's introduction, that our Faith should grow more and more and that our love for each other should be increasing. (2 Thess. 1:1-4) Paul gives us the reason "Why" our Faith and Love must increase and grow; So that we may be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God! (2 Thess. 1:5) There is a wise saying that states, "We'll understand it better by and by", and it is an echo of truth because some things in this world we'll never fully understand. We'll never fully understand why we face so many afflictions and hard, tough, difficult and trying times. Neither will we fully understand why loving others more than we love ourselves hurts so, nor why others put us through such persecutions and difficulties.

Nevertheless, this should not stop us, but prompt us to have Faith in God and Love others more and more simply because we know that our God is Just! His decisions, His judgments, and what He allows to happen is always right, suitable, fitting and proper! Paul says that He is a Just God and will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who are troubled as well! (1 Thess. 1:6-7) We will "understand it better by and by" because Paul tells us that this will happen when the Lord is revealed from in Blazing fire with His powerful angels. The he will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of His Power. (1 Thess. 1:7-9) It should be our goal to continue to grow our Faith in God and Love towards others so that we may be counted worthy of the Kingdom of God. Paul says that when Jesus returns He will be glorified in His holy people and marveled at among all those who believe. (2 Thess. 1:10) Paul told the Thessalonians that this included them and all of us who believe and long to see the Hope of the Church - Jesus Return!

Paul concludes by saying, "with this in mind we constantly pray for you that our God may count you worthy of His calling and that by His power He may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the Name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in Him according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ". (1 Thess. 1:11-12) It should be each of our prayers to be counted worthy of God's calling and His Kingdom! It should be

our prayer that God fulfills every good purpose and act that he wants to do in our lives. It should be our prayer to continue to grow and mature as Christians so that we may be counted worthy of that Eternal reward-Heaven! Because, Hell is real and Eternal separation from God is real and it is only in accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior that we can be counted Worthy of the Kingdom of God!

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