

# *Trinity Bible Church*

The Carpenter's House

December 30, 2007

## FIRST SERVICE MESSAGE:

*Strategies for Preparing to Stand Before  
The Judgment Seat of Christ*

*Romans 14:18-23*

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*Please join us for refreshments between services*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Monday	31 Dec	Youth Group Cancelled.
Wednesday	2 Jan	Bible class-2 Corinthians 5
Thursday	3 Jan	Ladies Prayer Meeting.
Sunday	6 Jan	The Lord's Table. The Challenge for 2008.
Sunday	6 Jan	Deacon nominations open.**
Monday	7 Dec	Youth Group Meeting resumes. 6:30-8:30
Wednesday	9 Jan	Bible class-2 Corinthians 6
Thursday	10 Jan	Ladies Prayer Meeting.
Sunday	13 Jan	Bryan Elmore special music.
Monday	14 Jan	Youth Group Meeting.
Wednesday	16 Jan	Bible Class.
Thursday	17 Jan	Ladies Prayer Meeting.
Sunday	20 Jan	Deacon nominations close.
Monday	21 Jan	Deacons' Board meeting.
Monday	21 Jan	Youth Group Meeting
Wednesday	23 Jan	Bible class-2 Corinthians 7
Thursday	24 Jan	Ladies Prayer Meeting.

\*\* Three deacons will be elected this year. Expiring terms are those of Roger, Jimmy and Danny.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING

*Hymns*

## SECOND SERVICE MESSAGE:

*Encouraging One Another*

**RALPH AND CINDY LAROSA**  
**Lucena, Philippines**  
**December 2007**

**CHRISTMAS – 2007 PHILIPPINES** – *“For you know the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was **rich**, yet for your sake He became **poor**, so that you through His **poverty** might become **rich**.”* 2 Corinthians 8:9 (NASB)

**THE BIG PICTURE!** Typically, we will go to Matthew or Luke for the birth of Jesus Christ and the Christmas story, but there are other passages that give us the big picture like 2 Corinthians 8:9, above. Theologically, this verse portrays both Christmas and Easter. The divinity of Christ always existed and in fact created the universe (John 1:1, 3, 10). As God, He was certainly RICH for all eternity past. He became POOR on the first Christmas. God became man, a helpless baby birthed through a young Jewish girl, inside a cattle shed. Jesus Christ finished his POVERTY on the cross and His resurrection guaranteed He'll never be poor again. GRACE is all that God is free to do for man because of the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. When we accept this work as a gift through faith alone in Christ alone we instantly become eternally RICH! We can be spiritually RICH in this life, and eventually physically and eternally RICH in the next.

**A BIRTH UNLIKE ANY OTHER!** In His book, *The Case for Christmas*, Lee Strobel says, “Christmas as a holiday is overlaid with all sorts of fanciful beliefs, from flying reindeer to Santa Claus sliding down a chimney. But I became convinced that if you drill down to its core, Christmas is based on historical reality.” Strobel also says “79 percent of Americans believe in the Virgin Birth.” Strobel continues, “it was a stumbling block for philosopher William Lane Craig when he was young.” “I thought it was absurd,” he said. “For the virgin birth to be true, a Y chromosome had to be created out of nothing in Mary’s ovum, because Mary didn’t possess the genetic material to produce a male child.” Craig, who became an expert on scientific evidence for a Creator, later resolved the issue. “If I really do believe in a God who created the universe,” Craig said, “then for Him to create a Y chromosome would be child’s play!”

Yes, when I accepted the God of Creation, it was easy to believe in the miracle of Christmas. Just look up the word “earth” on the web or a good encyclopedia and look at the facts about our planet. You may not be able to go home for Christmas, but you are riding on a planet that’s traveling about 66,000 miles per hour at its core. Since last Christmas your planet has made one revolution around the sun. Since last Christmas this earth has rotated over 360 times on its axis and we didn’t fall off. Scientists tell us if the earth wasn’t tilted at 23 degrees and moving at the right distance from the sun, we couldn’t survive. I find it easier to believe in Santa Claus than to believe that our universe and our life on this planet is the result of random chance or anything other than an intelligent designer. The God who created our universe and human life could certainly find a way to reveal Himself to us as He has through scripture and the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**JOY TO THE WORLD?** For many people this will be a difficult Christmas. Maybe it’s their first Christmas without a spouse, a parent, a child, or good health. For others the holiday season can be depressing. It reminds them of their divorce, broken relationships, their loneliness, debts, struggles and for some people commercialism brings sorrow, not joy. So, how can the birth of a baby in the Middle East 2,000 years ago bring joy to your Christmas in 2007? Quite frankly, joy in this life is not experienced by everyone. I think

most of us want joy but we don't qualify sometimes because of our attitudes and choices. I'm not trying to minimize our pain, or be insensitive, cruel, or macho. But the truth is, there is always someone somewhere who has more pain than we do, and yet they're not complaining about it and they experience the joy of Christmas.

**WHAT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE?** Have you ever wondered, as I have, what makes this kind of difference in people's lives? I believe the answer is found in the context of our "Big Picture" passage in 2 Corinthians 8:9. Paul used the spiritual Macedonians to confront the carnal Corinthians on how to experience the "joy" of Christmas everyday. *"And now, brothers, we want you to know about the GRACE that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity."* 2 Cor 8:1-2 NIV

**THE MACEDONIAN SECRET** - *"they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will."* 2 Cor 8:4-5 NIV  
You see, the Macedonians probably had greater financial difficulties and worse problems than the Corinthians, but they had the "joy of Christmas" because not only did they have a "relationship" with God as did the Corinthians, but they had a "strong spiritual life" as evidenced by their attitude and generosity toward others. They had the "joy of Christmas" because they were focused on God and the opportunities of service His grace provided. When Jesus Christ came to earth on the first Christmas, He brought joy to the world. The night before He died on the cross, He told his disciples:

*"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* John 16:33 NIV

On the first Christmas, the greatest Father, demonstrated the greatest love, by giving the greatest Son, who lived to make the greatest sacrifice so we can make the greatest decision and receive the greatest gift, which is "eternal life" through Jesus Christ Our Lord (Romans 6:23b).

P.S. We would like to thank all of our supporters for your prayers & generosity in 2007, and may all of you experience the joy and peace of Christmas everyday in 2008!

**FAITH COMES BY HEARING**  
**Morgan Jackson**  
**International Director**

Because of your gift of \$981.00, people elsewhere in the world are hearing the exiting news of the advent of our Savior -- for the very first time -- in their own heart language. How amazing! I can think of no greater Christmas gift ... thank you!

You have reached across barriers to distant lands and shared with lost souls the true "reason for the season" -- the blessed hope of Christ's coming ... His life, His death, His resurrection, and His glorious salvation to anyone who believes. Because of your faithfulness and generosity, people who may have never before heard the name of Jesus have been given a gift that introduces them to Him. And better still, it's a gift that goes on and on! As they listen to His word, in their own heart language, day by day, they are discipled in the faith and can share their newfound faith with others.

Thank you again for your generosity and a blessed Christmas to you.

*Strategies for Preparing to Stand Before  
The Judgment Seat of Christ  
Romans 14:18-23*

- F. In Relation to Other Christians (14:1–15:13)**
1. Judge Not One Another. 14:1-12
  2. Build Up One Another. 14:13-23
  3. Be of Same Mind with One Another. 15:1-6
  4. Accept One Another. 15:7-13

**Five Strategies to Get Ready for the Lord's Return.**

**Main point: Love One Another by Building Up One Another.**

**Strategy #1: Seek to remove wrongful judging from your life.**

**Strategy #2: Respect the ongoing work of the cross in the life of others.**

**Strategy #3: Consider the bigger picture that life is not just about you.**

**Rom 14:18 = The Result.**

**14:18 C.T. = For he who in this way serves Christ is well-pleasing to God and approved by men.**

**Summary:**

1. If your ambition is to be well-pleasing to the Lord, as His bondservant, then not harming your brother over non-moral issues is required behavior.
2. One of the strongest messages to the unbelieving world is the love for one another that Christians are to have and the resultant grace. John 13:34-35

**Principle: Grace toward a weaker brother is not just an example of maturity but is a powerful witness.**

**Rom 14:19 = The Strategy and Behavior.**

**14:19 C.T. = So then, the things of the peace may we pursue and the things of the edification, the things of *building* into one another.**

**Summary:**

1. Paul uses an exhortation rather than a pure command seeking this to be real and not a mechanical application of the principles.
2. This exhortation include two pursuits with each other:
  - A. Peace, a non-hostile environment, based on truth and lived in grace which involves ease with the Father's plan. Cf John 1:14-18
  - B. Building into others which refers to helping others to strengthen and grow through being more conformed to the image of Christ.
3. Real peace is brought about through spiritual reconciliation.
  - A. If there is ongoing sin in a person's life then there is no real peace, because peace is a fruit of the spirit.
  - B. It is not subject to the things and circumstances of life.
4. Real edification is that which builds individuals and thus the Body of Christ.

**Principle: Hitting the goals requires good strategies and behavior.**

**Rom 14:20 = Application of Love One Another.**

**14:20 C.T. = Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, but they are evil for the man who eats and gives offense.**

**Rom 14:21 = Extent of Love One Another.**

**14:21 C.T. = It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine, or to do anything by which your brother stumbles.**

**Summary:**

1. This is a prime example of what it means to live your life looking to the Judgment Seat of Christ.
2. The cost of salvation was so great that we must not do anything to take away from it in the life of another.

**Principle: The correct application of doctrinal truth centers on love not liberty.**

**Strategy #4: Seek to build up others rather than tear down. 14:20**

**Rom 14:22 = You Be Convinced.**

**14:22 C.T. = A faith which you have, have as your own conviction before the God. Blessed is he who does is not judging himself in what he approves.**

**Rom 14:23 = The General Statement.**

**14:23 C.T. = But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because *his eating is not* from faith; and whatever is not from faith is sin.**

**Summary:**

1. This mandate is for individuals to establish a faith system and become convinced of it.
2. That faith system is to be placed before God for correction.
3. Our faith system can have errors in it that we have deducted through our own system of thought and experiential testing.
4. Our faith system can also be incomplete.
5. It is a blessing to get it right and not bring judgment upon ourselves for believing the wrong thing, but it is also humbling to realize that our faith system may not be complete.
6. If your faith system is not fixed, but wavering, your actions in your mind always miss the mark and in your mind you will be constantly living in sin.
7. Just because I believe something to be sin does not make it truly a sin, but affects me just the same, although wrongfully.
8. Thus the principle to seek to continue to grow in the complete knowledge of the Truth. John 16:13-14

**Principle: Come to know and believe the right things to have the opportunity to not "live in sin" and thus have a real peace.**

**Strategy #5: Continually place your faith system before God.**

## 2. Understanding Encouragement.

- A. Encouragement realizes the power of a well-timed word.**  
 Prov 18:21; 12:25; 15:4; 16:24; 25:11; 25:20; Jas 3:5-6
1. Words are important and we must understand that encouragement basically involves the careful selection of words that are intended to influence another person meaningfully toward increased godliness.
  2. "\_\_\_\_\_" words lack concern or are not truthful, so they do not truly desire to bring encouragement to those who hear.
  3. "\_\_\_\_\_" words are words that destroy motivation toward godliness. Prov 18:21
  4. "\_\_\_\_\_" words are those that are designed to build and maintain motivation toward godliness. 1 Cor 10:31
- B. Shallow Communities are an obstacle to true encouragement.**
1. When people communicate from behind protective layers that are designed to hide personal fears, the result is superficial and shallow communication, a \_\_\_\_\_ Community.
  2. Surface Community is easily achieved when we don't \_\_\_\_\_ to one another. James 1:19
  3. To get past Surface Community the Core Emotion of \_\_\_\_\_ must be overcome. Gen 3:10
  4. Our Core Motivation must stay geared toward the Two Key \_\_\_\_\_. Mark 12:29-31
  5. We need to learn the difference between an objective and a \_\_\_\_\_.
  6. Our Core Strategy must then become to learn how to live the Two Commands, and to pray for the \_\_\_\_\_ in our lives to do so.
  7. Pray that the Holy Spirit will make you attentive to others and that He will give you the wisdom and strength to become an encourager, for it is not an \_\_\_\_\_ part of the Christian life.
- C. We must become open to get past the shallowness, but \_\_\_\_\_ openness may not be the right solution.**
- D. Total \_\_\_\_\_ is the right solution. Rom 12:10**
- E. Paul instructs us to understand the fears, defenses and needs of other people and to become committed, not to sharing ourselves for personal glory, but to sharing the \_\_\_\_\_ by ministering to those needs. Eph 4:29**
- F. The Character of an Encourager.**

1. This involves \_\_\_\_\_ to do what does not come naturally.
2. An Encourager's Motivation is \_\_\_\_\_. 1 Cor 4:5
3. If it becomes a goal to \_\_\_\_\_ someone with your caring heart, then it is not the true function of an encourager, even though the person may not realize your hidden motives and still be encouraged.
4. Ministry to others should become more important than whether or not our \_\_\_\_\_ are met.
5. The natural tendency is to become \_\_\_\_\_ rather than dependable.
6. You will face times when there is seemingly no one to encourage you but \_\_\_\_\_. Psa 142:1-7
7. We need to maintain our commitment to minister to others even when others are \_\_\_\_\_ in their ministry to us.

**G. When do we tell someone else how we feel?**

1. When you decide to let the Holy Spirit use you to encourage others, and you begin to see Him at work in and through you, it will probably accentuate your yearnings to \_\_\_\_\_ in kind.
2. What should you do when the opportunity arises for you to encourage someone who irritates you?
3. Realize first, that there are three basic strategies which are used for handling emotions:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ which is pretending to be something we are not.
  - b. Indiscriminate \_\_\_\_\_ which robs people of the opportunity to see Christ work through them.
  - c. Acknowledgment with \_\_\_\_\_ Expression which first acknowledges our feelings to God, and then discern when it is permissible to express our feelings to others.
4. We should express our acknowledged emotions only when such emotions will further \_\_\_\_\_ purposes.
5. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to tell others of your needs and seek their encouragement and counsel. Gal 6:1-2
6. By the same token, do not \_\_\_\_\_ feelings of wanting to give up, so that you do not seek help before it is too late.

**H. Of utmost importance is \_\_\_\_\_ to the Holy Spirit in the area of encouraging one another. Don't wait until it "feels right," or until you find "just the right moment."**