

SERMON NOTES ♦ FEBRUARY 1, 2009
Getting at the Heart of the Matter

SERMON TEXT

Romans 2:17-29 (ESV)

¹⁷But if you call yourself a Jew and rely on the law and boast in God ¹⁸and know his will and approve what is excellent, because you are instructed from the law; ¹⁹and if you are sure that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, ²⁰an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of children, having in the law the embodiment of knowledge and truth— ²¹you then who teach others, do you not teach yourself? While you preach against stealing, do you steal? ²²You who say that one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples?

²³You who boast in the law dishonor God by breaking the law. ²⁴For, as it is written, “The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.” ²⁵For circumcision indeed is of value if you obey the law, but if you break the law, your circumcision becomes uncircumcision. ²⁶So, if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the precepts of the law, will not his uncircumcision be regarded as circumcision? ²⁷Then he who is physically uncircumcised but keeps the law will condemn you who have the written code and circumcision but break the law. ²⁸For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical.

²⁹But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.

NOTES

I. At the Heart of Religion -- Law.

II. At the Heart of Hypocrisy – Disobedience.

III. At the Heart of Faith -- Relationship.

Leadership of First Presbyterian Church

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Dr. Frederick A. Coates CP Chappel, Clerk

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F. Michael Campbell, MD
Philip L. Heilman
Weldon M. Hitchcock
Thermond E. Thompson
J. Scott Vaughn

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W. Brent Curtis
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Thomas B. McMillan
Beth B. Sink
Mary Beth Stutts
Gene E. Vaughan
Lucinda Weyer

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Nellie Goodman, Secretary
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Billy Black, Sexton

Jerilyn Fair, Hostess

Christy Floyd, Organist



Loving God... Loving People... Making Disciples

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

249 West McLelland Avenue
Mooresville, North Carolina 28115
704-664-5275 ♦ www.moorevillefirstpres.org

February 1, 2009 ♦ 11:00 A.M.

GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Prelude: *New Songs of Celebration Render* Bourgeois; Genevan Psalter
Christy Floyd

Welcome and Ritual of Friendship Fred Coates
Please complete the Friendship Pad and pass it down your pew for all to sign.
An asterisk (*) marks when those who are able will please stand.
Please turn off your cell phones or place them on "vibrate."

Invocation

Choral Call to Worship: *Be Joyful and Sing to the Lord* ALTHOUSE
Chancel Choir

*Hymn # 2: *O Worship the King* LYONS

Time with the Children Tyler Domske

Call to Confession Clay Brown

Unison Prayer of Confession

Almighty and Everlasting God, we confess our propensity to sin. Just when we think we have overcome one sin, another rears its ugly head. We resist one temptation, only to fall for three others. Impulses of conceit and greed, and of lust and anger pour through us while we strive maintain a façade of righteousness. Help us, Lord! Deliver us from our hypocrisy. Blot out our offenses and renew us through the healing, redeeming power of your Holy Spirit. Grant us grace to live as Your faithful people, confident in Your love, joyous in Your mercy, bold in Your truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

Assurance of Pardon

*Response #34: *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD 100TH
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HEARING GOD'S WORD

*Hymn # 514: *Be Strong in the Lord* FETKE

Old Testament Reading: Deuteronomy 10:12-22 Pew Bible, p. 165
Abi Abercrombie

New Testament Reading: Romans 2:17-29 Sermon Notes

Sermon: *Getting at the Heart of the Matter* Fred Coates

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer Fred Coates

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Giving of Tithes and Offerings

Anthem: *God Is Our Refuge and Strength* LARSON
Chancel Choir

*Response #688: *We Give Thee but Thine Own* (v. 1) SCHUMANN
We give thee but thine own, what-e'er the gift may be: all that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

*Prayer of Dedication

*Affirmation of Faith Tyler Domske
This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day; and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. He is the first and the last, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. He is our Lord and our God. Amen.

TAKING GOD'S WORD TO THE WORLD

*Hymn # 595(v. 1-3): *They'll Know We Are Christians* SCHOLTES

*Opportunities to Serve and Invitation to Discipleship Tyler Domske

*Charge and Benediction

*Response # 595(v. 4): *They'll Know We Are Christians* SCHOLTES
All praise to the Father, from whom all things come. And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son. And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love

*Postlude: *Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord* Towner

If you are our guest today, welcome! We're so glad you're here. For more information on FPC, please indicate your interest on the Friendship Pad and/or take home a "Welcome Home" folder from the Parlor. **You can become a FPC member TODAY** by your profession of faith, transfer of membership, or reaffirmation of faith. Please speak with the pastor in the chancel area following the service.

Large print bulletins are available from the ushers. **Assisted listening devices** are available from the sound console at the back of the sanctuary.

The flowers in the sanctuary today are given to the glory of God and in honor of Martha Gragg on her 95th birthday on February 10 by her family; the flowers in the vestibule are given in loving memory of Brett Kortright by his family.

Recent Prayer Requests: Jeff Stonestreet; Don Fair; Tony Ervin; Mac Herring; John & Carolyn Collett; Lynne Streetman's parents; Rebecca Auten; Dean Washburn; Fred Hoke; Aimee Culler's father; Lottie Massey; Don Fair; Mary Voils Aven; Bob Davidson; Clayton Davidson; Anita Teeter; Terry Stevens; Cathy Brown's parents; David Ortwein, Ken Bernd's nephew; Martha Andrews; EO3SW Laban Thompson; The Kortright family and all those who have recently lost loved ones.

Christian sympathy is expressed to Mark and Nancy Kortright and family in the death of their son, Brett, on January 23.

Lent will be upon us before we know it. This coming Lent we will have our "Lent in the Living Room" small group emphasis. We meet in the homes of church members and discuss the Scripture passage that will be preached the following Sunday. This year we will focus on the Passion of Christ from the Gospel of Mark. We need host homes and facilitators. A host home is a person, couple, or family who allows a Lent in the Living Room group to meet in their home once a week for six weeks, from the week of February 22-28 through the week of March 29-April 4. A facilitator is someone who covenants to lead the group discussion, using the discussion questions provided in the Lent in the Living Room booklet. If you're interested in serving in either or both roles or have questions, please contact Clay Brown at 704-664-5275 or clay@moorevillefirstpres.org.

Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting: Anyone interested in serving on the VBS Planning Committee is encouraged to attend a meeting next Tuesday, February 10, at 7:00 p.m. in the library. This year's VBS is scheduled for June 22-26.

Catechism Club will not meet tonight.

All women of the church are invited to a Valentine's Tea on Sunday, February 8 in the Parlor from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

In Memoriam

Brett Richard Kortright

May 29, 1982 – January 23, 2009

Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them! Revelation 14:13

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY 1 – FEBRUARY 8, 2009

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School Social
11:00 a.m. - Worship with MSM Handbells
3:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Ministry
6:00 p.m. - PYF "Souper" Bowl Party

Monday: 7:00 p.m. - Boy Scouts
7:30 p.m. - Bible Study at the Coates' home

Tuesday: 7:00 p.m. - Cub Scout Pack 166

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m. - Bible Study at the home of Fronnie Gardner
4:00 p.m. - Logos/MSM – *Disney Mania* night
6:15 p.m. - HS SupperClub @ Five Guys
7:30 p.m. - Chancel Choir

Thursday: 9:30 a.m. - Bible Study at the Rogers' home
6:00 p.m. - Exaltation Ringers
7:00 p.m. - PW Coordinating Team

Friday: 6:00 p.m. - Cotillion
6:15 p.m. - PYF "God Goes to the Movies"

Sunday 2/8: 8:00 a.m. - Presbyterian Men's Breakfast
9:00 a.m. - Early Worship
10:00 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Worship with Logos Choir
2:00 p.m. - PW Women's Valentine Tea
2:00 p.m. - Mwandu Mission Exploratory Meeting at Lake Norman Fellowship
4:00 p.m. - Alpha PYF
5:00 p.m. - Omega PYF
5:00 p.m. - Deacons meeting
5:30 p.m. - Catechism Club
7:00 p.m. - Committee Meetings

The PYF is collecting non-perishable food items for the "Souper Bowl" today to donate to the Mooreville Christian Mission. Non-perishable food items may be donated in boxes at the back of the sanctuary at the end of each service.

