

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

ESTABLISHED 1786 MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

VOL. 21, NO. 4
JANUARY, 1989

THEREFORE

Romans 12:1

The first verse of Romans 12 gives us the "therefore" of Paul's religious creed. It brings together the doctrinal and practical in religious experience. It shows the harmony between "creed" and "deed". The first eleven chapters of Romans are doctrinal and the last five are practical. The first eleven are brimful of precious doctrines to be believed; the last five are crowded with exhortations to duty. In the word "therefore" we find the pivot on which the discussion turns from the doctrinal to the practical. We have heard it said over and over again, until it is sickening, that it does not make any difference what a man believes if he is sincere. We believe it does make a difference what one believes. A man's belief is the index to the state of his soul, and the track upon which his conduct runs. One may sincerely believe that which is false. His belief determines his character and conduct.

Every intelligent Christian has a creed. It may not be committed to writing. It need not be the creed formulated by any religious body. Whatever a man believes is his creed. The word creed comes from the Latin "credo", which means "I believe." For one to say that he has no creed is to say that he does not believe anything and to acknowledge that he is an infidel. Prejudice and ignorance of the meaning of words lead men to say foolish things about

doctrine and creed. "Theology is the doctrine of God. It is the science of religion. A doctrine is a principle of one's belief. A creed is a summary of the principles of one's belief. It is the natural product of his religious experience and thought. It is his explanation of his religion, and the interpretation of his experience of grace." The man who has no creed either has no religion or no brains with which to interpret his experience.

Paul's creed was the basis of his appeal for service. "I beseech you therefore, etc." Let us analyze his creed as given in this first eleven chapters of Romans.

1. Sin and human depravity. To the 20th verse of the third chapter, Paul discusses the doctrine of sin. Paul painted sin and sinners in terrible colors. One's conception of sin will determine his theology. If he is wrong on sin he will be wrong on everything else that is vital. His idea of sin will affect his view of salvation, the value of the atonement, and all related doctrines. Sin is the worst thing in the world. It is that which perverts and corrupts human nature. It is that strange and horrible something that has turned man against God. Sin is absurd; it is that foolish something that makes the creature think he can overcome the Creator. It is that

which makes men believe the devil's lie rather than God's truth. Who can adequately tell of the enormity of sin? Human language is impoverished in trying to describe it. It is that something in men which would cause them, if they could, to climb up to the throne of God and spit in His face, and disrobe and dethrone Him. It causes men to make fun of portions of His word and call it impracticable and foolish. It causes men to hypocritically praise His word with their lips and deny it with their lives. Sin is that thing that depopulates heaven and populates hell. Sin is so terrible that to save sinners from its terrible effects the Son of God came to bear their guilt in His own body on the tree. How any man can imagine he has any goodness in the sight of God when he sees what it cost Jesus Christ to keep him out of Hell. The sin of man is going to reach its climax in the Man of Sin who will exalt himself above all that is called God or that is worshipped, etc.

2. Salvation by grace through faith. In chapters 4, 5, 6, we have salvation by grace. How could a sinner be saved any other way? How can sin merit salvation or filth create purity? The question has been propounded, "How can God be just and let a man go to hell?" Foolish question, that! We had better ask, "How can God be just and keep a man from going to hell who has transgressed His law and defied His commands?" This was Job's question: "How can man be justified with God?" Justice demands the punishment of the sinner under divine government just as it demands the punishment of the criminal under civil government. There is only one answer: Rom. 3:24.

3. The two-fold nature of the saved man. In chapter 7, Paul speaks of the conflict going on in the saved man. When I would do good, evil is present with me.

4. The security of the believer in the 8th chapter. It begins with no condemnation and ends with no separation.

5. Predestination and election, in chapters 8 - 11.

THE RELATION OF CREED TO CHARACTER AND CONDUCT

The relation is a vital one. A man's creed determines his conduct. Paul knew

this from experience. As Saul of Tarsus, before his conversion, his creed or belief made him the cruel persecutor of the believers in Jesus. He believed Jesus to be an impostor. He believed the new movement of Christianity was a wicked farce and that it ought to be put down. He believed he was serving God in his effort to destroy the movement. His conversion changed his creed. As he was on his way to Damascus to persecute Christians he met Jesus and fell under the spell of His masterful touch. A divine work was wrought within him, and his opinions were changed. He gladly became the bondsman of Jesus whom he had been persecuting. He was the greatest man Christianity has ever produced. His wonderful life was the result of his creed.

The Jews have a creed. On account of this creed they reject Christ and will have nothing to do with Christianity.

The Mohammedans have a creed. It affects their lives and conduct. They believe God to be the great Supreme Being. They know nothing of the holiness of the character of God, and therefore are without purity of life. Their idea of God leads them to propagate their religion by force and the sword.

The Hindu mother in India has a creed. She believes there is a god of the Ganges River who demands the sacrifice of her faint child. Here belief causes her to throw her child into the river. We call that murder; she calls it worship. She is sincere, but wrong.

The creed of the Germans found expression in the world war. It was her creed in action that threw the world into the horrible cataclysm of blood. Her doctrine that "might makes right" caused her to set aside treaties and ignore international laws.

The Christian Scientist has his creed. A foolish creed, but a creed nevertheless.

The Roman Catholic has his creed. They place great emphasis on what they call the transcendence of God. God is far away. Man cannot deal directly with Him. They believe that God has invested the Church with the power to save souls.

Because of this belief they have invented ecclesiastical machinery with which to save souls. This machinery consists in part of the rosary and the seven sacraments. The seven sacraments are baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, extreme unction, marriage and ordination. To be saved a man must be a member of the Roman Catholic Church and have at least five of these sacraments administered to him. Marriage and ordination are mutually exclusive. If a man marries he cannot be ordained. Every Catholic must have these other five sacraments. This makes salvation merely mechanical. This belief affects their character and conduct and destroys morality. That is why in purely Catholic countries the morals of the people are so low.

By DR. C. D. COLE

condemn.

The sins of a nation and blame it on them.

By the laws of the blameless, the Savior made known,

Who is there among us to cast the first stone?

For in so many cases—it's sad, but it's true

The title, "Delinquent" fits the older folks too!



Delinquent Parents

We read in the papers and hear on the air
Of killing and stealing and crime every-
where.

We sigh and we say as we notice the
trend,
This young generation—where will it
end?

But can we be sure that it's their fault
alone?
That maybe a part of it isn't our own?
Are we less guilty who place in their
way
Too many things that lead them astray?

Too much money to spend—too much
idle time
Too many movies of passion and crime
Too many books not fit to be read
Too many children encouraged to roam
By too many parents who won't stay at
home.

Kids don't make the movies, they don't
write the books
That paint bright pictures of gangsters
and crooks.
They don't make the liquor; they don't
run the bars.
They don't peddle the drugs that addle the
brain
That's all done by older folks' greed for
gain.

Delinquent teenagers—Oh, how we

CASSETTE TAPES

We have two sets of
tapes available on The Bride
of Christ, as preached by
Pastor Gormley. Tapes are
\$1.50 each, postage paid.
Order from the Bryan Station
Baptist Church by these cata-
log numbers:

SET I:

- #1 - 06-20-82AM
- #2 - 06-20-82PM
- #3 - 06-27-82PM
- #4 - 07-07-82PM
- #5 - 07-11-82PM
- #6 - 07-14-82PM
- #7 - 07-21-82PM

SET II:

- #1 - 01-25-87AM
- #2 - 01-25-87PM
- #3 - 02-01-87AM
- #4 - 02-15-87PM
- #5 - 02-22-87PM
- #6 - 03-08-87PM