

OCEAN DRIVE OCTOBER 12

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SCRIPTURE: JOHN 15: 18 – 20 ; ROMANS 12: 1 – 5, 9 – 18

SERMON: LET'S STOP LIVING AS IF WE ARE OF THIS
WORLD!

JOHN: 15: 18 – IF THE WORLD HATES YOU, KNOW THAT IT HAS HATED ME BEFORE IT HATED YOU.

19 – IF YOU WERE OF THE WORLD, THE WORLD WOULD LOVE YOU AS ITS OWN; BUT BECAUSE YOU ARE NOT OF THE WORLD, BUT I CHOSE YOU OUT OF THE WORLD, THEREFORE THE WORLD HATES YOU.

20 – REMEMBER THE WORD THAT I SAID TO YOU: A SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER. IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU: A SERVANT IS NOT GREATER THAN HIS MASTER. IF THEY PERSECUTED ME, THEY WILL ALSO PERSECUTE YOU. IF THEY KEPT MY WORD, THEY WILL ALSO KEEP YOURS.

ROMANS 12: 1 – I APPEAL TO YOU THEREFORE, BROTHERS, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, TO PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR SPIRITUAL WORSHIP.

2 – DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWAL OF YOUR MIND, THAT BY TESTING YOU MAY DISCERN WHAT IS THE WILL OF GOD, WHAT IS GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT.

3 – FOR BY THE GRACE GIVEN ME I SAY TO EVERYONE AMONG YOU NOT TO THINK OF HIMSELF MORE HIGHLY THAN HE OUGHT TO THINK, BUT TO THINK WITH SOBER JUDGMENT, EACH ACCORDING TO THE MEASURE OF FAITH THAT GOD HAS ASSIGNED.

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4 – FOR AS IN ONE BODY WE HAVE MANY MEMBERS, AND THE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE THE SAME FUNCTION,

5 – SO, WE, THOUGH MANY, ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST, AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER.

9 – LET LOVE BE GENUINE. ABHOR WHAT IS EVIL; HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD.

10 – LOVE ONE ANOTHER WITH BROTHERLY AFFECTION. OUTDO ONE ANOTHER IN SHOWING HONOR.

11 – DO NOT BE SLOTHFUL IN ZEAL, BE FERVANT IN THE SPIRIT, SERVE THE LORD.

12 – REJOICE IN HOPE, BE PATIENT IN TRIBULATION, BE CONSTANT IN PRAYER.

13 – CONTRIBUTE TO THE NEEDS OF THE SAINTS AND SEEK TO SHOW HOSPITALITY.

14 – BLESS THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU; BLESS AND DO NOT CURSE THEM.

15 – REJOICE WITH THOSE WHO REJOICE, WEEP WITH THOSE WHO WEEP.

16 – LIVE IN HARMONY WITH ONE ANOTHER. DO NOT BE HAUGHTY, BUT ASSOCIATE WITH THE LOWLY, NEVER BE WISE IN YOUR OWN SIGHT,

17 – REPAY NO ONE EVIL FOR EVIL, BUT GIVE THOUGHT TO DO WHAT IS HONORABLE IN THE SIGHT OF ALL.

18 – IF POSSIBLE, SO FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON YOU, LIVE PEACEABLY WITH ALL.

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LET'S STOP LIVING AS IF WE ARE OF THIS WORLD!

A - LOTS OF NOMINAL CHRISTIANS AS WELL AS SOME CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS BELIEVE THAT SALVATION LOOKS LIKE THIS (FIRST SLIDE): $F + W = S$, WHICH MEANS FAITH AND GOOD WORKS WILL GIVE YOU SALVATION, BUT THE SCRIPTURES TELL US THIS IS WRONG AND THIS IS WHAT IT SHOULD LOOK LIKE $- F = S + W$

BUT THERE IS MORE (SECOND SLIDE) : THE EQUATION SHOULD BE $F = S + W + C + A$ – WHICH MEANS THAT GOD THROUGH HIS SPIRIT GIVES US FAITH TO SEE THE GOSPEL AND FAITH TO RECEIVE THE GOSPEL AND WITH THIS GIFT WE RECEIVE SALVATION FROM SIN AND DEATH, THE ABILITY TO DO GOD'S WORK BECAUSE HE GIVES EACH OF US SPIRITUAL GIFTS TO BE USED, SOME HAVE ONE BUT ALL OF US HAS A SPIRITUAL GIFT, PLUS WE WERE ONCE ALONE BUT NOW HE PLACES US WITHIN A LOVING COMMUNITY WHERE WE HAVE ADDED VOICES TO ACCOMPLISH GOD'S WILL HERE ON EARTH, AND HERE IS THE CHERRY ON TOP; HE ADOPTS US AS SONS AND DAUGHTERS, WHICH MAKES US HEAVENLY ROYALTY!

B – NOW LET US REMEMBER – ONCE WE WERE OF THIS WORLD FILLED WITH SIN AND DEATH INSIDE OF US. AS THE SCRIPTURE SAYS ALL HAVE SINNED AND FALLEN SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD, NO ONE SEARCHES AFTER GOD NOR NOT ONE. THE WAGES OF SIN IS DEATH. BUT NOW WE WHO HAVE BELIEVED IN JESUS CHRIST THROUGH FAITH ALONE HAVE BEEN BORN ANEW. OUR SIN HAS BEEN BURIED, WE HAVE BEEN RESURRECTED AS

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NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST, NO ONE CAN ACCUSE US OF SIN BECAUSE NOT ONLY HAS GOD FORGIVEN OUR SIN HE REMEMBERS IT NO MORE. WE ARE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT AND THE GIFTS OR GIFT THAT EACH IS TO USE FOR THE COMMON GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY BUT MOSTLY TO LET THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE IN THIS SINNED FILLED WORLD WITH ITS SELFISHNESS AND DEATH. WE ARE NO LONGER CITIZENS OF THIS OLD WORLD BUT CITIZENS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, WE ARE ADOPTED ROYALTY IN CHRIST'S KINGDOM. SO WE MUST STOP SPENDING SO MUCH TIME TRYING TO CAMOUFLAGE OURSELVES TO LOOK AND ACT AS CHILDREN OF THIS WORLD! (PICTURE OF THE FILM: 'THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL' - THERE COMES THIS FLYING SAUCER THAT LANDS IN THE MIDDLE OF WASHINGTON DC AND THIS HUGE ROBOT WITH POWERFUL WEAPONS WALKS OUT, THEN THIS HUMAN LOOKING MAN WALKS OUT SPEAKING OF DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH BECAUSE OF ALL THE HATE AND FIGHTING, HE TELLS THE WORLD THAT THEY HAVE POWER NOW TO DESTROY THIS WORLD AND WHERE HE COMES FROM THEY DO NOT WANT THIS KIND OF POWER TO BE UNLEASHED. HE IS LOOKING FOR LOVE AND COMMUNITY AND THAT PEOPLE WOULD GET ALONG. WE ARE THAT ALIEN PERSON TRYING TO SHOW THIS WORLD THAT EACH PERSON NEEDS TO CHANGE FROM SELFISHNESS TO GODLY SELFLESSNESS WHICH IS LOVE. YES WE ARE THE ALIENS IN AN ALIEN WORLD. WE ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE WHO MUST TELL PEOPLE THAT THE WORLD WILL BE JUDGED FOR ITS SIN AND THAT WE ARE TO

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BRING THE MESSAGE OF LOVE AND MERCY IN WAYS THAT THE WORLD CAN SEE, HEAR AND UNDERSTAND. C. WE ARE NOW THE ALIENS IN AN ALIEN WORLD. WE ARE NOT OF THE EARTH BUT WE ARE INSTEAD HEAVENLY CHILDREN AND WE MUST LIVE AS SUCH. OVER THE YEARS I PREACHED A SERMON ENTITLED ‘ A THIRTY FOOT BANANA SPLIT’. I SAID , ‘ NO ONE COULD MAKE ONE AND NO ONE PERSON COULD EAT ONE BEFORE IT MELTED AWAY INTO A MESS.’ THIS ILLUSTRATION DID POINT OUT THAT WE EACH HAVE DIFFERENT SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND WE NEED THEM TO USE THEM AS A COMMUNITY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COMMUNITY. BUT I DID NOT MAKE THE ILLUSTRATION BIG ENOUGH IN THAT GOD MADE US – WE ARE HIS SUPER LARGE BANANA SPLIT. HE HOLDS US AND SUSTAINS US SO THAT WE CAN GO OUT INTO THIS SOUR WORLD AND SWEETEN IT WITH THE LOVE GRACE, AND MERCY OF JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD AND SUSTAINER, D – WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR LAST POINT: HOW DO WE AS A COMMUNITY OF ALIENS LIVE SO THAT THIS WORLD WILL SEE, HEAR, AND REACT TO THE MESSAGE OF JESUS’ MERCY, GRACE AND LOVE? FIRST LET US GO BACK TO ROMANS 12: 1 – TO WHERE IT SAYS BY THE MERCIES OF GOD PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE HOLY AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT. – THE BEST INTERPRETATION OF THIS GREEK WORD “ PRESENT YOUR BODIES AS A LIVING SACRIFICE” IS GIVE OUR WHOLE SELF IN WORSHIP OF JESUS BY LIVING AS HE LIVED, DAY BY DAY. WE DO IT IN COMMUNITY AND WHEN CALLED FOR WE DO IT AS INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST USING

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**YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS THAT YOU HAVE BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND USE THE “FOOD THAT YOUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH HAVE SHARED WITH YOU. WHEN WE DO WE WILL BE SEEN AS ALIENS IN A DARKEN WORLD.”
E – CONTINUE TO EGEGETE ROMAND THEN THE JOHN PASSAGES -----**

SO LETS QUIT TRYING TO FIT INTO THE WORLD BUT TO LIVE SO THAT THEY SHALL SEE GOD AND YOUR GOOD WORKS AND PRAISE HIM BECAUSE THEY SEE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINING ON YOU – AND YES, SOME WILL HATE YOU, SOME WILL PERSECUTE YOU AND SOME WILL KICK YOU OUT OF THERE COMMUNITY OF FELLOWSHIP, BUT WE HAVE A HIGHER CALLING AN HIGHE COMMUNITY A HIGHER LIFE OF JOY IN SPITE OF WHAT THIS WORLD DOES TO US – FOR THEY HAVE LOST AND JESUS IS COMING QUICKLY TO THERE DISMAY.