

Sermon ~ Sunday, June 28, 2020

Text: Hebrews 13: 8, 9a

KJV ~ "JESUS CHRIST the same yesterday, and today, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace..."

NLT ~ "JESUS CHRIST *is the same* yesterday, today, and forever. Do *not* be distracted by the strange, new ideas. Your *spiritual strength* comes from **GOD'S special favor**..."

Title: "This has been going on..."

\*From Eternity pass—**GOD**, no beginning and no end—**Alpha and Omega**... **JESUS CHRIST!** This is a *personal Name* and a *personal Office*... **JESUS** in the Hebrew means *Joshua*, **The SAVIOR**, "for **HE** shall save his people from their *sins*." Matthew 1:21. **GOD incarnate**; **GOD in CHRIST tabernacle** with fallen humanity, is the sure pledge, guarantee and commencement of human *Salvation*; if I, we, but believe!) **JESUS The CHRIST, The Anointed ONE, The Promised ONE, The Only ONE** {**WHO** heals the sick, raises the dead, delivers the sinking, rescues from shipwreck our ship tossed to and fro; our **KING**, our **Great HIGH-PRIEST**, our **PROPHET**, our **SHIELD; The Only ONE**} **WHO** saves! From *sin*, from hell, *in* hard pressures, *in* perplexities, *in* persecutions, *when* struck down, **HE** delivers us through them *all!* **HE is JEHOVAH Salvation! The SAME**, not in condition, not in occupation, never limited, "JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF yesterday, and to-day, and for ever . . ."

"This has been going on..."

\* Undated—Genesis 4: 3-7, **GOD**, despite *sin*... through Adam and Eve, permitted Cain, to take Abel, his brother, out to a field and kill him. Abel's blood still cries from the ground . . .

\* Undated—Genesis 6: 3, **GOD**, despite *sin*... limits the life span of humans because of their increasing *sin(s)* and increasing numbers so that they cannot do more violence . . .

\* Undated—Genesis 6, 7, 8, **GOD**, despite *sin*... graciously used Noah and The Flood . . .

\* 1450 BC—Exodus 1: 1-12: 30, **GOD**, despite *sin*... chose the children of Israel, and men as Moses, to endure slavery, the result of *sin*, in Egypt for 400 years . . .

(We cannot be *overcomers* without *troubles* to *overcome*)

\* 930 BC—2 Samuels 13: 1-32, **GOD**, despite *sin*... allowed Amnon, the son of King David, to be killed at the command of his own brother, Absalom, for raping his half-sister, Tamar . . .

\* 930 BC—2 Samuels 18: 9-15, **GOD**, despite *sin*... Vengeful Absalom does not have a pleasant end. Revolting against his father, King David, Absalom encounters David's men while riding his mule, and trying to escape, the mule goes under the thick branches of an oak tree and Absalom's long beautiful hair gets caught in a tree. While hanging suspended from under the tree, one of the soldiers takes three javelins in his hand and plunges them into Absalom's heart. Then came, 10 of Joab's armor bearers', surrounding Absalom and striking him until he dies . . .

\* 1010 BC—930 BC, **GOD**, despite *sin*... allowed multiple Kings to be slain by their own servants—King Elah, 1 Kings 16: 8-14; Israeli Ruler, Nadab, 1 Kings 15:25-29; Athaliah murders her children and grandchildren to become Queen, 2 Kings 10:12-27; 11:1-16 . . .

\* 7—2 BC—**GOD**, despite *sin*... permitted Herod the Great, to order the executions of all males two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem . . .

\* AD 30—**GOD**, because of *sin*... graciously allowed **JESUS, The Just** for the *unjust* to be crucified on Calvary's Cross...

"This has been going on..."



\* Early 1400's—1526, **GOD**, despite *sin...* allowed enslaved Africans, some captive and some freed (*12 Years A Slave*), to be present in what we know now as the United States. The fate of enslaved people in the United States divided the nation during the Civil War. After the War, the racist legacy of slavery persisted spurring movements of resistance including Abolitionism and the Underground Railroad, 1831 (Harriet Tubman); The Montgomery Bus Boycotts (Rosa Parks, 1955); The Selma to Montgomery March (Bull Corners, 1965); and the Black Lives Matter Movement—July 13, 2013 . . .

\*1619—**GOD**, despite *sin...* permitted slavery in North America – Jamestown, Virginia; American Revolution; George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, both slaveholders from Virginia constitutionally wrote “any person held to service or labor” (an obvious euphemism for slavery) . . .

\*1793—**GOD**, despite *sin...* enabled the rise of the cotton industry – due to the failure of the tobacco industry, the spinning and weaving textile industry began, which demanded cotton. The cotton gin was created, and slavery increased, but for the slaveowner's selfish gain.

\*1831—**GOD**, despite *sin...* through slave, Nat Turner struck fear into the hearts of white Southerners by leading the only effective slave rebellion in U.S. history. . .

\*1831—**GOD**, despite *sin...* equipped Harriet Tubman, abolitionism and the Underground Railroad for the purpose of assuring freedom if trust in HIM was exercised. . .

\*1857—**GOD**, despite *sin...* allowed the U.S. Supreme Court to hand down its decision in *Scott v. Sanford*, delivering a resounding victory to southern supporters of slavery and arousing the ire (anger) of northern abolitionists. One of the most prominent abolitionists, Frederick Douglass, was cautiously optimistic, however, wisely predicting that —“This very attempt to blot out forever the hopes of an enslaved people may be one necessary link in the chain of events preparatory to the complete overthrow of the whole slave system.” . . .

\*1865—1877—**GOD**, despite *sin...* though **HIS** presence not clearly seen in the Post-Slavery South: The Union victory in The Civil War gave some 4 million enslaved people their freedom, significant challenges awaited during the Reconstruction period. The 13th Amendment, officially abolished slavery, but enacted the Black Codes, restricting freed Black peoples' activity and ensure their availability as a labor force; Radical Republicans in Congress overrode President Andrew Johnson's veto and passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867, placing the South under martial law. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment granted "equal protection" of the Constitution to people who had been enslaved. The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment: guaranteed that a citizen's right to vote would not be denied—on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. The white protective societies that arose during this period—the largest of which was the Ku Klux Klan (KKK)—sought to disenfranchise Black voters by using voter suppression and intimidation as well as more extreme violence.

**“This has been going on...”**

\*1896—**GOD**, despite *sin...* continued progress toward fulfilment during the Separate But Equal era (racially segregated but ostensibly ensuring equal opportunities to all races), using men like Booker T. Washington, George Washington Carver & W.E.B. Du Bois, encouraging strong leadership, African American education and entrepreneurship.

\*1909—**GOD**, despite *sin...* enabled the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) ideas that abolished all forced segregation, enforcing the 14th and 15th Amendments, equal education for Black and white students and complete enfranchisement of all Black men. (Though proponents of female suffrage were part of the original NAACP, the issue was not mentioned.)

\*1954—1968—**GOD**, despite *sin...* permitted Brown v. Board Of Education, the Integration of schools; The tragic death of 14-year-old Emmett Till; Sit-in Movement and Founding of SNCC (Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee) advocating the “Black Power” philosophy of Stokely Carmichael; CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and Freedom Rides; Birmingham Church Bombing; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gives the ‘I Have a Dream’ speech; Civil Rights Act of 1964; President John F. Kennedy’s assassination; Freedom Summer and the ‘Mississippi Burning’ murders; Malcolm X, shot to death; Voting Rights Act of 1965; Rise of Black Power; Fair Housing Act; Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. assassinated . . .

\*1992 to date—**GOD**, despite *sin...* through **HIS** permissive Will, allowed the Los Angeles Riots, (Rodney King – Police brutality); the Million Man March; Colin Powell to become Secretary of State; President Barack Obama to be the first Black U.S. President; The Black Lives Matter Movement – The senseless deaths of Blacks like 17-year-old Trayvon Martin; 25-year-old Ahmaud Arbery, 26-year-old Breonna Taylor, and most recently 46-year-old George Floyd and 27-year-old Rayshard Brooks . . .

**“This has been going on...”**

Though human leaders have had, and still have much to offer, we *must* keep our eyes on **CHRIST**, our **Ultimate LEADER**, unlike human leaders, **CHRIST** never change. **CHRIST has been, CHRIST is and CHRIST shall be...** in this changing world we can trust our unchanging **LORD**.

“Grace and Peace is found in ... **The ONE WHO is, WHO always was, and WHO is, still to come;** the sevenfold **SPIRIT [The SPIRIT of The LORD; The SPIRIT of Wisdom and Understanding; The SPIRIT of Counsel and Might; The SPIRIT of Knowledge and The Fear of The LORD]** before **HIS Throne.**” (Revelation 1: 4)

And we shall testify, *this has been going on...*

“On **CHRIST, The Solid ROCK** we stood, all other ground was sinking sand.”

[www.magnoliambcbmt.org](http://www.magnoliambcbmt.org)