

# NEW NEGRO DENOUNCED BY COLORED PREACHER

residing Elder J. A. Davis  
 Delivers Red Hot  
 Sermon.

**"IMMORAL AND LAWLESS"  
 WITHOUT REGARD FOR LAW"**

**declares That Negro Ministers Preach  
 for Revenue Only, and That  
 Half of Them Ought To  
 Be at Work on the  
 Farms.**

That the new negro is a lawless character, that he is immoral and reckless; that he has respect neither for the rights of man on earth nor the authority of God in heaven and that he is a "liar," he denies the charge, are some of the statements made yesterday morning by J. A. Davis, D. D., presiding elder of the Atlanta district, African Methodist Episcopal church, during his sermon at the Bethel church.

Essentially he charged that the majority of negro preachers are preaching for revenue only, that they give their attention to crime and that they should be on the farms, where they could do some benefit to humanity. The sermon yesterday morning was devoted to about 2,000 persons, and it created a decided stir among the members of the colored race.

Elder Davis sprung quite a storm in preaching the annual sermon of the Atlanta conference at Monday last fall, over which Bishop Turley presided. He denounced the officials of the church and severely rebuked many of the preachers for idleness, negligence and indifference. No other strong man of his race, is said to speak so plain and in an unmistakable way to his people on all occasions. His sermon yesterday was anything but mild. The text was taken from Romans vii, "For I delight in the law of God as the inward man."

The presiding elder said in part: "The negro is a lawless character, without rule in the home, therefore we have but little in his church and synagogues. His respect for law and order comes from a sense of fear. He does not either from fear of punishment or from hope of reward.

I need not say there are exceptions; I do not say there are good men and women in the race, but they are in the lawless minority. This is not so here in the city of Atlanta, but anywhere you meet this reckless, independent, know-all young negro that neither respects the rights of man on earth nor the authority of God in heaven.

"This is my thirtieth year as a preacher. I am 61 years old. My word for it, I have seen both the old and the new negro. The tactics and the procedure of the new negro is destroying him. His reckless disregard for moral purity, a disposition to ignore the church and the gospel, a love for a life of ease and pleasure, ignorant and malicious disregard for the law of God and rights of man that is daily being practiced by the majority of the race convince me beyond doubt that the negro is a lawless being and he is a liar if he says he is not."

"The negro preacher must countenance wrong living, wrong action and almost endorse crime to be permitted to preach this new negro. For in the majority of cases it is pecuniary consideration, it is what will become of me if the people object to what I say and if the presiding elder and bishop do not endorse my position, and too often he preaches, because it's the biggest thing he can do, and do the least work that pays. Fully half of the negro preachers should go out upon the farms where they can best serve the people in their day and generation.

"The church is ruined with drunkards and debased characters who live in bar rooms and sneak up and down alleys and streets all night and come into the church and take the front seats.

"Good women and men must take a back seat that these scoundrels and rumpus may at their vice and shame the eyes of the public.

"Too often the amen corners are a party to this shame and disgrace.

"All honor to the grand men and women who are pushing forward the work of Christian education, but education without character and those essentials that make people upright and good make a bad and a more formidable foe than ever.

"A decent preacher is denounced if he attempts to advise and instruct as it relates to the inner life and plea for the chastity of women and the purity in the life and thought of men.

"It is not the white man's prejudice, wrongs or mistreatment of the negro that will destroy him half as fast as his bad conduct and habits and love of immorality."