



Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC)

House of Wonders

A Compilation of
2022
Summarised
EGOC
Messages

At EGOC we value a caring environment, community involvement, discipleship, every member ministry, Christ-centred homes, Biblical leadership, God pleasing worship, small group fellowships, Biblically based communication and stewardship of resources.

2022
WATCHWORD
My year of
Rest
in the
Lord

At EGOC we love the
WORD of GOD
Read it, study it, learn it and love it.
God bless you.

*Study to show thyself approved unto GOD,
a workman that needeth not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word of truth...*

- 2 Timothy 2:15

The Lord shall fight for you,
and you shall hold your
peace.
Exodus 14:14

You are invited to worship with us at
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Sunday Worship Service: 8am – 9:30am

(Zoom Meeting ID: 969 1846 6301; Passcode: 451530)

**Night of Wonders Prayer Meeting:
7pm - 8pm**

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month

(Zoom Meeting ID: 939 8822 4578; Passcode: 617026)



Revd. Dr. Gideon O. Bakare
Senior Pastor

God's Word
our Final
Authority



Revd. Adebola Oni
Resident Pastor

2021 Crossover Watchnight Service

Date: 31 December 2021

Rest in the Lord (Part 1)

Topic: The meaning of resting in the Lord

Text: Exodus 14:14

The Lord shall fight for you,
and you shall hold your
peace.
Exodus 14:14

Introduction: The Cambridge English Dictionary defines rest as ‘to lie or lean on something, or to put something on something else so that its weight is supported.’ In this context, the one that is taking the weight is God. Let us consider some Scriptural examples to establish the meaning of resting in the Lord.

1. **Resting in the Lord means to wait patiently on the Lord (Psalm 27:14; Psalm 40:1; Psalm 37:37).** Resting in the Lord is about being patient until the Lord’s timing and season. It is about refusing to take the next step until God tells us to do so. It is a conviction that God’s time is the best.

2. **Resting in the Lord means to surrender everything to God (Exodus 14:14).** Resting in the Lord is a decision to take the backseat and let God take the front seat of your life, family, finances, career, and ministry etc. It means to stop struggling in every area of your life and raising your hands in surrender to God.

3. **Resting in the Lord means to refuse to be afraid (2 Chronicles 20:17).** Resting in the Lord is a refusal to be afraid in a turbulent situation because of the conviction that God is in control. Fear is one of the things that can deprive us from physical and spiritual rest.

4. **Resting in the Lord means to continue to hope in the Lord (Psalm 62:5; Psalm 130:5).** Resting in the Lord is finding hope in God and His words. It is about positive expectation that God will turn the situation around for your good and the outcome will glorify Him.

5. **Resting in the Lord means being quiet before the Lord (Zephaniah 3:17; Isaiah 30:15).** Resting in the Lord is a commitment to listen to God despite the noises around you. It is a conscious effort to avoid every form of distraction. It is a decision not to talk when God is speaking or after the Lord has spoken.

Conclusion: Resting in the Lord is about waiting patiently on the Lord, surrendering everything to God, refusing to be afraid, hoping in the Lord and being quiet before the Lord.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Theme for the year (2022): Exodus 14:14

My year of rest in the Lord

Your year of rest in the Lord

Our year of rest in the Lord

For the Lord shall fight my battles

And I shall hold my peace

I shall not, I shall not be moved /2x

For the Lord shall fight my battles

And I shall hold my peace

(Repeat above verse with shall not... & We shall not...)



Date: 02 January 2022

Rest in the Lord (Part 2)

Topic: Divine assurance of rest

Text: Exodus 14:14

THE
Lord WILL
FIGHT FOR YOU;
YOU NEED ONLY TO
Be Still.
EXODUS 14:14

Introduction: A divine assurance is a positive declaration from God that is intended to give us confidence. It is a pledge or vow that guarantees that what was promised will be delivered. A basic exposition of this verse shows that there are three crucial things about divine assurance of rest.

1. **The source of divine assurance of rest (verse 14a).** The Hebrew Bible used 'Lord' (Yahweh) as a title and one of the names for God. It connotes superiority and supremacy. This implies that only God is eternal and self-existent. He oversees everything in heaven and on earth. Moreover, the Lord is a 'Man of War' if He needs to be. Our God can be stirred up to go into battle for us if He must do so. Our God is the source of divine assurance of rest. Therefore, we can lean on Him.

2. **The beneficiary of divine assurance of rest (verse 14b).** The second part of this verse tells us about the beneficiary of God's divine rest. It is you and me. Every born-again child of God is unique and special before God. There is an assurance that the Lord your God will act on your behalf because the Bible says so.

3. **The condition for divine assurance of rest (verse 14c).** The third part of this verse is the climax of the entire statement. It tells us about what can invoke or hinder God's action. In my view, the word 'only' in verse 14c makes it a conditional clause in NIV. Holding your peace is about hanging on with God for your life and existence. What God is expecting from you is to trust and obey following in His step.

Conclusion: A divine assurance of rest was given to the Israelites when they left the place of bondage in Egypt some thousands of years ago. A greater assurance of rest is now available to us through the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. We can now rest in the capacity of the triune God through Him.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

**My soul finds rest in God alone;
my salvation comes from Him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation.
He alone is my fortress; I will never be shaken.**

Psalm 62: 1,2

Date: 9 January 2022

Topic: Developing the attitude of resting in the Lord (Part 1)

Text: Exodus 14:1-14

Introduction: We now turn our attention to the specific steps that we need to take to develop the attitude of resting in the Lord as we look at the story in this passage from the perspective of Moses and the Israelites.

1. **Position yourself to hear from God (verses 1-4b).** Moses was the intermediary between Yahweh and the Israelites. The fact that God spoke to him is evidence that he has spent quality time in His presence. Moses positioned himself to receive divine direction for the Israelites.

2. **Follow God's strategy (verses 4c-9).** It was part of God's plan to force Pharaoh to release the Israelites. It was God's plan to cause him to change his mind and harden his heart to pursue them. The Israelites recognised God as the strategist and they decided to follow His unique strategy.

3. **Cry out to God when you are terrified (verse 10).** The Israelites cried out to the Lord when they saw the Egyptians approaching. It was their own way of testifying that God was their only option. They understood that God is not deaf to their tears and prayers or silent to their pains and plight. There is an assurance in the Scripture that God will answer whenever we cry out to Him (Psalm 107:19; Psalm 34:17; Psalm 107:6; Psalm 18:6; Psalm 10:17).

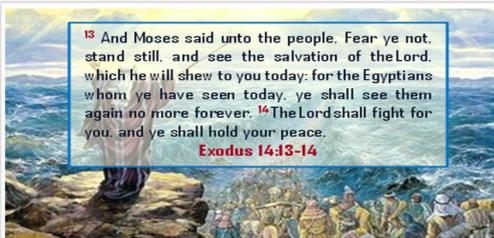
4. **Refuse to grumble or complain (verses 11-12).** The Israelites grumbled against God, but Moses did not join them in their ungratefulness. They expressed regret that they left Egypt with Moses and concluded that they would die in the wilderness. This expression of ingratitude made it difficult for them to trust God, but Moses continued to rest in the Lord.

5. **See the situation with the eyes of faith (verses 13-14a).** Moses challenged the Israelites to look beyond the Egyptians that they saw at that time and see the deliverance of the Lord. He reassured them that the Egyptians will never be able to trouble them again because the Lord will fight on their behalf.

6. **Relax in the Lord (verse 14b).** What God expects from the Israelites is for them to relax and lean on His everlasting arms. Of course, they cannot withstand the military might of the Egyptians and their sophisticated weaponry. Moses encouraged them to relax because God was in control.

Conclusion: It is possible for you to develop the attitude of resting in the Lord throughout your lifetime. You should position yourself to hear from God, follow God's strategy, cry out to God when you are terrified, refuse to grumble, see the situation with the eyes of faith and relax in the Lord.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 16 January 2022

Topic: Developing the attitude of resting in the Lord (Part 2)

Text: Exodus 14:15-31

Introduction: Let us examine five more steps that you need to take from this passage if you want to develop the attitude of resting in the Lord.

1. Move forward in line with God's instruction (verse 15).

God told Moses that there is a time for prayer and there is a time for action. Moses should tell the Israelites to move forward without looking back. There is no point crying unto God to guide your footsteps if you are not willing to move your feet.

2. Use what you have (verses 16, 21-22).

God told Moses to raise his staff and stretch out his hand over the sea with the assurance that the water will divide for the Israelites to go through on dry ground. It is interesting to note that God did not demand from Moses what he did not have.

3. Allow God to do his work in your situation (verses 17-20, 23-28).

God decided to harden the hearts of the Egyptians to so that they will pursue the Israelites into the Red Sea. God also allowed the pillar of cloud to bring darkness to the Egyptians on one side and light to the Israelites on the other side throughout the night. God also jammed the wheels of their chariots. Then the Lord commanded Moses to stretch out his hand over the sea, and it went back to its place.

4. Enjoy your victory (verses 29-30).

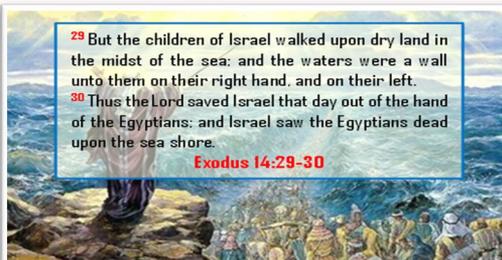
The Israelites that were being pursued suddenly became conquerors. They majestically walked through the sea on dry ground and watched the destruction of their enemies. The Lord permanently delivered the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians, and they enjoyed the victory.

5. Continue to rest in the Lord for more victories (verse 31).

The Israelites saw the mighty hand of the Lord and bowed down in humble adoration. They put their trust in Yahweh and recognised Moses as the servant of God in their midst. Then, they continued to trust God for more victories in their journey to the Promised Land.

Conclusion: God's expectation from you is to develop the attitude of resting in Him in all seasons of your life. You should move forward in line with God's instruction, use what you have, allow God to do his work in your situation, enjoy your victory and continue to rest in the Lord for more victories.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 23 January 2022

Topic: Resting in the Lord in the storm of life

Text: Mark 4:35-41

Introduction: Metaphorically, a storm is a reference to the difficult challenge making our lives uncomfortable. We want to look at this story from the perspective of Jesus Christ who rested in God (the father) during His earthly ministry. We can learn three things from Jesus in this passage:

1. Jesus rested in the Lord before the storm (verses 35-36).

Jesus invited the disciples to go with Him to the other side. Jesus knew that the storm would arise, but He rested in the Lord. Storm of life is not a matter of if, it is a matter of when. Therefore, you should not wait for the storm before learning to rest in the Lord. You should begin to trust and rely on God now. Your relationship with God is an investment that will help you in times of trouble.

2. Jesus rested in the Lord during the storm (verses 37-39).

The description of the storm as "a furious squall" in this passage is worthy of note. It was a sudden gust of wind that does furious blow to whatever comes its way. Yet, Jesus continued to rest in the Lord. He was in the stern sleeping on a cushion when the disciples were panicking. The disciples woke Him and expressed their disappointment that Jesus Christ was unmoved. Jesus got up confidently and rebuked the wind. Then, there was a great calm.

3. Jesus rested in the Lord after the storm (verses 40-41).

Jesus asked the disciples, 'why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?' The difference between Jesus and the disciples was that He continued to rest in the Lord after the storm. The question that Jesus asked the disciples in this passage is the same question that God is asking us today. Therefore, you should continue to focus on God's ability to care for you when the storm is over.

Conclusion: We can see from this passage that resting in the Lord was part of Jesus' lifestyle during His earthly ministry. What happened in this passage was a big lesson for the disciples at that time. It is also a challenge for us today to continue to rest in the Lord in all seasons of life.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

REST is a weapon given to us by GOD!

The enemy hates it because

he wants you to be stressed and occupied!

Thank God for the seasons of Rest and Refreshing.

#lovepatins

**GOD WILL CARRY YOU
THROUGH THE STORM!**

Nothing that has happened to
you is a surprise to GOD.

GOD will still get you to where
you are supposed to be!



Date: 30 January 2022

Topic: Be still and know that I am God

Text: Psalm 46:1-11

Introduction: This passage highlights seven reasons why we must be still before the Lord irrespective of what we are going through in life. These reasons are enough to encourage us to rest in the Lord.

Reason 1. Be still because God is our refuge and strength (verse 1a). The psalmist confirms that God is our refuge and strength. He is our protector. Therefore, nothing can get to us without getting to God first. He is our strength whenever we are weak. We can rely on His strength to carry us through.

Reason 2. Be still because God is our ever-present help in trouble (verse 1b). The psalmist mentions that God is our ever-present help in trouble. He is the help for the helpless. He is present with us in times of trouble and adversity to see us through.

Reason 3. Be still because nothing catches God by surprise (verses 2-3). Our God is the creator of the heavens and earth. He sees the beginning from the end and the end from the beginning. He knows what we would ever go through in life. Therefore, nothing can catch Him by surprise.

Reason 4. Be still because our God is the giver of peace (verses 4-5). Our God is the source and giver of peace. It is the peace of God that makes the difference in our lives. The peace that He gives us is permanent. This peace is not the absence of challenges, but the presence of God in that situation.

Reason 5. Be still because our God is the most powerful (verses 6 & 8-9). There is no power in heaven and on earth that can be compared with the power of the triune God. Our God is omnipotent (all-powerful).

Reason 6. Be still because God is with us (verses 7 & 11). A fortress is a fortified place where the enemies cannot reach in times of warfare. Our connection with Christ has positioned us in a place far beyond and above our enemies. God is with us always as a mighty warrior. Our God is mighty to save and deliver. The One who lives in us is greater than the one in the world.

Reason 7. Be still because God will be exalted through our challenges at the end (verse 10). This verse reminds us that God can make testimonies out of our tests and trials. Whatever we are going through now will ultimately bring glory to God at the end.

Conclusion: Are you feeling worried right now? You should remember that God is always there to protect and guide you. God is with you, and no one will attack or harm you (Acts 18:10). What God is expecting from you, and I is to be still and know that He is God.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Be Still
AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD.
PSALM 46:10

Date: 6 February 2022

Topic: What is that to you?

Text: John 21:22

Jesus said to him,
 “If I will that he remain till I come,
WHAT IS THAT TO YOU?
 You follow Me.”
 John 21:22

Introduction: Jesus was speaking to Peter. Jesus is speaking to you now using this same passage of the scriptures. He had actually just told Peter a few verses back that he was going to die for the cause of Christ. After hearing that he would die, Peter looks over and sees John (the disciple whom Jesus loved) and he basically asks Jesus, “What is going to happen to John?” Jesus' response is the title of the message - What is that to you?

Desire to Follow. Luke 19:12

Jesus is asking Peter why it matters what John was called to do. Peter is not the Master or Chief Shepherd or Nobleman who gives talents or King of kings and Lord of lords or Judge of the living and the dead. Several of Jesus' disciples went fishing and caught nothing all night long. The next morning, Jesus on the shore told them to cast their net on the right side of the boat. When they obeyed Jesus they caught, literally, a boat load of fish. After a meal, Jesus then asked Peter three times if he, Peter, loves him. Peter's commission and ministry is to not worry about John. Peter is to follow Jesus. You and I are also to follow Jesus regardless of what other brethren are called to do.

Differences in Paths. 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Corinthians 10:12

Our paths will be different because our ministries are not the same, yet we are all members of one body. At times you may feel you are not appreciated, valued or feel worthless in the eyes of the world. God appreciates you and have called you for a noble endeavour. God is preparing you for whatever else will be needed for you to accomplish in the future. Pray that God prepare your heart on His timetable if you feel things are not working well from your own perspective. God has a purpose for your life and you are to be on the right track with what He has in plan for you. Just follow Him and He will perfect that which concerns you in accordance with His will.

Distractions not needed. Galatians 2:8

Our duty is to follow Him in that plan. We should not get distracted by what others are doing, it is not our business. God that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in Paul toward the Gentiles. God will work great wonders and mightily in our lives if we allow Him to use us as His vessels of honour.

What is that to you? What is that to me? God can use other messengers, ministers, preachers, teachers in whatever capacity to any of His creations. May God continue to make His grace to abound towards His saints and all His creations.

Conclusion: God knows what He wants you to do, you are to listen and obey His voice. Simply follow Jesus Christ. We are to keep our eyes on Him. Sometimes we have to learn this lesson over and over again.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 13 February 2022

Topic: The Therapeutic Aspects of a Happy Marriage

Text: Song of Solomon - Chapters 1-8

*Many waters
cannot quench love,
neither can the floods
drown it*

SONG OF SOLOMON 8:7E

Introduction: This world is stressful, and we all need therapy in one way or another. I have carefully read the book of Song of Solomon with the lenses of therapeutic counselling, and I can see seven therapeutic elements that happy couples can give to one another.

1. Touching therapy (Song of Solomon 1:1-2a; 2:6; 8:3).

The touching therapy is about touching your spouse in such a way that is therapeutic for him or her. Many of us erroneously think that we are too spiritual to kiss or touch our spouses. Touch is a therapy, and it is in the Bible.

2. Talking therapy (Song of Solomon 1:2b-3, 4c-7, 9-16b, 17; 2:1-3, 7-17; 4:1-16; 5:10-16; 6:3-9, 11-12; 7:1-9a, 10; 8:1-2a, 4, 5b-7, 10-14).

In my view, majority of the book of Song of Solomon is about the talking therapy between Solomon and his Shulamite damsel. Solomon used talking therapy and his Shulamite damsel responded in return accordingly. Sometimes, all that your spouse is yearning for is a positive talking therapy.

3. Presence therapy (Song of Solomon 1:4a; 3:1-11; 5:1a, 2-8; 6:2).

Solomon and his damsel found joy in the company of each other. What we can learn from these passages is that the presence of a loved one is therapeutic.

4. Good friendship therapy (Song of Solomon 1:4b, 8; 5:1c, 5:9; 6:1, 10, 13; 8:5a, 8-9).

These passages demonstrate that there was deep friendship between Solomon and his Shulamite damsel. We all have a desire for good friendship. In real world, it is difficult to get loyal and committed friends; but it is therapeutic to know that your spouse is your best friend.

5. Sex therapy (Song of Solomon 1:16c; 7:11-13).

It is our opinion that sex is implied with the description of their bed as verdant (1:16c). Solomon and his Shulamite damsel made their bedroom colourful and attractive. Sex is therapeutic within the confines of marriage.

6. Food therapy (Song of Solomon 2:4-5; 5:1b; 8:2b).

These passages show that eating together in banquet with your beloved is therapeutic. Similarly, eating the food specially prepared for you by your spouse is therapeutic.

7. Spiritual therapy (Song of Solomon 7:9b).

This can be read as a prayer or best wishes from a beloved. Praying for your spouse or showing interest in his or her spirituality is a therapy.

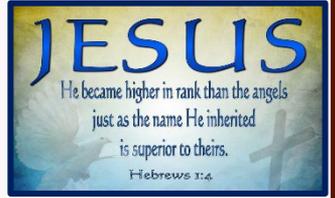
Conclusion: The main point of this message is that the book of Song of Solomon has so much to say about the therapeutic aspects of a happy marriage and relationship. Therefore, it is not too late to begin to explore the therapeutic strategies of touching, talking, presence, good friendship, sex, food, and spirituality in your marriage.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 20 February 2022

Topic: The Superiority of the Son of God

Text: Hebrews 1:1-9



Introduction: A greater portion of the prologue of the Book of Hebrews is spent contrasting how superior Christ Jesus is to angels which gives an indication that there must have been an extreme emphasis or preoccupation with angels with this group of believers. The author states his position that Christ is greater than angels with several quotations from the OT. Angels like humans have the choice to serve God or rebel against Him.

The Essenes and Angels: Angels were very important to ancient Judaism (Deut. 33:2; Psa. 68:17; Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2). The Essenes, a sect of Judaism popular at the time of the writing of Hebrews, and one of the sources of potential temptation for Jewish Christians to abandon Christ gave an undue regard for angels. Angels are powerful, awesome, terrifying, and glorious spiritual beings and when this is understood it becomes much easier to see why so many have given them undue regard, even worship (Rev. 10:1; Luke 1:11-12; Rev. 19:10; Rev. 22:8).

Nobody like Jesus Christ: The author gave his full attention to the greatness of Jesus Christ. Christ Jesus sits at the right hand of the Majesty on high after He had made purification for our sins and was raised from the dead (Hebrews 1:3).

A more excellent name than the angels (Hebrews 1:4-5). The Divine Name Christ Jesus possesses is "so far better," "much superior to," "much better than" than that of the angels (Hebrews 6:9; 7:7, 19, 22; 8:6; 9:23; 10:34; 11:16, 35, 40; 12:24). This Divine Name Christ Jesus possesses has the distinction of superiority. Many scriptures quotes the excellency of Jesus' name (Acts 4:12; Psalm 8:1; Zechariah 14:9; Matthew 28:19).

Angels worship Jesus Christ (Hebrews 1:6). The title "firstborn" in this verse does not refer to first to be born chronologically, but refers to sovereignty, uniqueness of a kind, superiority of the Messiah (Psalm 89:17; 89:27; Romans 8:29; Colossians 1:15, 18; Revelation 1:5; John 5:23; Isaiah 6:1-3; John 12:41). All angels of God worship (**Proskuneo** in Greek) Him (Revelation 5:13; Matthew 13:41; 16:27; 25:31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7).

Throne of God: "Your throne, O God, is forever (Hebrews 1:7-9). Jesus Christ clearly shares God's throne and rules over all creation. In fact, to be seated at God's right hand means to be God's equal (Hebrews 12:2; Psalms 110:1; 1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 4:10; 1 Peter 3:22). The Son of God, Jesus Christ has universal dominion and will one day receive universal worship.

Conclusion: The Christian life and growth come from God through a direct relationship between the believer and Christ Jesus (Colossians 2:18-19; 1 Tim. 2:7; Heb. 4:16). Jesus is much superior to the angels since He has an excellent name, higher position, divine nature and all authority as compared to angels and He is worthy of all our worship, praise and adoration.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori



Date: 27 February 2022

Topic: Shake it off and rest in the Lord

Text: Acts 28:1-6



Introduction: Apostle Paul and 275 men were on their way to Rome but found themselves on the Island of Melita after they were shipwrecked. The Islanders were hospitable and kind towards them (Acts 27:37;28:1-2). God had revealed to Apostle Paul that the ship will perish but he and all those in the ship will be saved (Acts 27: 22-25). We will examine from this passage four things we need to shake off so we can complete our God-given assignments and journeys.

1. Shake off the crisis and rest in the Lord (verses 3 and 5)

The fire was needed to keep everybody warm and Paul was pleased to keep the fire burning. A snake was aroused by the heat, it grabbed and held onto Paul's hand. Paul remembered the promises of God concerning him (Psalm 91:13; Luke 10:19; Mark 16:18). When we are serving the Lord faithfully, crisis can come to disrupt our lives. Shake off the crisis and remember God's promises (Hebrews 13:5; Exodus 14:14; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17; Matthew 28:18).

2. Shake off the critics and rest in the Lord (verse 4)

When the snake fastened itself on Paul's hand the islanders criticised him. He took his eyes off the critics and focused them on Jesus. Sometimes we are objects of criticism because people do not understand what they see and hear about us. They wish to stop the work we are doing or the progress we are making. We must shake off the critics, focus on Jesus and rest in the Lord.

3. Shake off the cynics and rest in the Lord (verse 6a) After the poisonous bite of the viper, nothing happened to Paul. The Islanders were very cynical about the situation but Paul shook off the cynics and held onto the prophesy of the Lord in Acts 23:11 that he will testify about Christ in Rome. What prophesy or promise of the Lord are you holding onto when you become an object of the cynics? Shake the cynics off and believe in God's promises concerning you.

4. Shake off the praises of men and rest in the Lord (verse 6b)

The Islanders ascribed deity to Paul when he was miraculously unharmed by the bite of the snake. In Lystra Paul was also called a god when he healed a crippled man (Acts 14:8-12). When men do extraordinary things, people will put them on a pedestal. Do not be like the Pharisees that loved the praises of men more than the praise of God (John 12:43). Rather, be like Apostle Paul who did not make a shipwreck of his faith but shook off the praises of men and continued his faithful service to the Lord.

Conclusion: God gave Apostle Paul, Luke and Aristarchus a season of relief and replenishment on the Island of Melita where they stayed for three months and ministered to the people before they finally reached Rome (Colossians 4:10,14; Philemon 1:24; Acts 28:7,11,16). Shake off the beast by confessing the word of God, by praying, by singing spiritual songs, by reading your Bible, by resting in the Lord and you will reach your Rome!

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni

Date: 6 March 2022

Topic: The joy of waiting patiently on the Lord

Text: Psalm 40:1-5



Introduction: (verse 1a). Waiting on God is not a wasting of time; it is always a training time. This passage summarises the testimony of David after going through a season of waiting patiently on the Lord. It highlights seven things that will happen when we wait on the Lord:

1. The Lord will turn to you and hear your cry (verse 1b).

David confirmed that the Lord heard his cry because he waited on the Lord. David engaged in a confident, disciplined, expectant, active clinging unto God.

2. The Lord will lift you up from the pit and mud (verse 2a).

The description of a slimy pit means that David was trapped and there was no way of escape before Yahweh showed up to rescue him.

3. The Lord will set your feet on the rock (verse 2b).

A rock is a secured place of comfort. Every time you wait on the Lord, you are asking God to plant your feet on the rock that cannot shake.

4. The Lord will put a new song in your mouth (verse 3a).

A new song is a song that you compose in your heart after being overwhelmed by God's astonishing miracles. What the psalmist is saying here is that you will eventually sing a new song when you hang on long enough for God.

5. The Lord will use your miracle to draw others to Himself (verse 3b).

David was confident that those who saw his pain will see his praise. Those who saw his season of waiting patiently will see the fulfilment of God's promises.

6. The Lord will bless you (verse 4).

David testified that those who trust and wait on the Lord are blessed. The blessing in this verse is not just financial. It includes good health, long life, financial prosperity, good name, peace, local and international influence etc.

7. The Lord will give you multiple testimonies (verse 5).

David testified about three things concerning the plan of God for those who wait patiently. First, God's plan for them are many. Second, God's plan for them are incomparable. Third, God's plan for them are inexhaustible.

Conclusion: The main point of this message is that although waiting is hard, but there is joy at the end. You can also enjoy the above seven things if you wait patiently on the Lord.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 13 March 2022

Topic: The power of self-reflection in thanksgiving

Text: Psalm 116:12-14



Introduction: One of the key lessons we can learn from the life of David is gratitude. Let us examine seven among the many things that David may have reflected on before he penned down this Psalm to express his gratitude to God.

1. **David reflected on the goodness of God throughout his childhood.** David was the last born of the children of Jesse (1 Samuel 16:11). One could imagine that he had less privileges and opportunities in that patriarchal society. God eventually chose David to be king of Israel (1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 78).

2. **David reflected on the victory of God.** The killing of Goliath was a huge victory for Yahweh, David, and the people of Israel (1 Samuel 17:1-54). God also gave David many victories over all his enemies (2 Samuel 7:1). His coronation as king over Judah and later over Israel was also a victory (2 Samuel 2:1-7; 2 Samuel 5:1-5; 1 Chronicles 1:1-3).

3. **David reflected on the protection of God.** God protected David from the hands of king Saul (1 Samuel 18:6-30). He survived the conspiracy of Absalom (2 Samuel 15:1-12; 18:7-19:8). He overcame the betrayal of Ahithophel (2 Samuel 15:30-31; 2 Samuel 17:1-23).

4. **David reflected on the forgiveness of God.** David made so many mistakes in his lifetime. He committed the sin of adultery with Bathsheba and killed Uriah (2 Samuel 11:1-12:25). He confessed his sins to God, and he was forgiven (Psalm 51). David conducted census in Israel against God's instruction. God eventually forgave him when he acknowledged his sin and repented (2 Samuel 24:1-25).

5. **David reflected on the faithfulness of God.** David remembered the covenants that God made with him. He also witnessed their fulfilment in his lifetime (2 Samuel 7:8-21). God promised that David would be king, his son will sit on the throne, he will enjoy unlimited victories, he will be great and he will be established. God fulfilled all the promises to David.

6. **David reflected on the provision of God.** David needed a friend and God blessed him with the friendship of Jonathan (1 Samuel 18: 1-4; 20:1-42; 23:14-18). He needed a source of supply when king Saul was pursuing him and God provided for his needs through Jonathan. David needed a virtuous woman and God blessed him with Abigail (1 Samuel 25:1-44).

7. **David reflected on the future blessings of God.** David reflected on the unseen future blessings that Yahweh will unleash on his descendants and the nation of Israel even at the point of death (1 Kings 2:1-12).

Conclusion: This Psalm is applicable to the beginning, middle and the end of David's life. It is also applicable to every stage of your life.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 20 March 2022

Topic: The Davidic strategies of expressing thanksgiving

Text: Psalm 116:1-19

**I OFFER A SACRIFICE OF
THANKSGIVING AND CALL ON
THE NAME OF THE LORD.**

PSALM 116:17

Introduction: One of the reasons why God called David a man after His heart was because he understood the secret of thanksgiving. David highlighted seven different strategies of expressing thanksgiving to God in this Psalm.

Strategy 1. Love the Lord wholeheartedly (verse 1a). David used the Hebrew word 'aw-hab' (love) to express his love for Yahweh. It shows that loving God is a good way to show your thanksgiving (Luke 10:27 cf. Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Strategy 2. Declare what the Lord has done (verses 1b, 2a, 3-11; 15-16). David confirmed that God heard his cry for mercy (verses 1b and 2a). He confessed that God gave him the grace to overcome the cords of death, distress and sorrow (verses 3-4). The Lord was compassionate to him (verse 5). David is simply counting God's blessings in this passage.

Strategy 3. Call on the name of the Lord (verse 2b, 4a, 13b, 17b). David mentioned that he would 'call on the name of the Lord' four times in this Psalm (verse 2b, 4a, 13b and 17b). This is an indication that David values his relationship with God. David promised to continue to call on the name of the Lord throughout his lifetime.

Strategy 4. Express your indebtedness to God (verse 12). David recognised that his best gift, dance, sacrifice, and song are not enough. He was still indebted to God. In other words, what the Lord has done outweighs what he could give back to God. The deficit is so much that he could never repay the balance in his lifetime.

Strategy 5. Lift up the cup of salvation (verse 13a). Biblical scholars are divided on the meaning of 'the cup of salvation' in this verse. One of views is that it is like standing in festivals to raise or drink a cup of wine as a special expression of thanks. It can also be a metaphor to express that David will gladly and thankfully receive God's mercy to him with gratitude.

Strategy 6. Fulfil your vows (verses 14, 18-19). David mentioned twice in this Psalm that he will pay his vows. He promised to do it in the presence of the people of God. The payment of vows was very significant in ancient Near East and ancient Israel. David understood the implication of paying it and not paying it (Ecclesiastes 5:5-6).

Strategy 7. Sacrifice something special for the Lord (verse 17a). David understood that his thanksgiving must cost him something and he was ready to pay the price (2 Samuel 24:24).

Conclusion: All the strategies of thanksgiving that David exhibited in this Psalm are still relevant for us today.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 27 March 2022

Topic: There is hope in Christ (Part 1)

Text: Hebrews 13:8

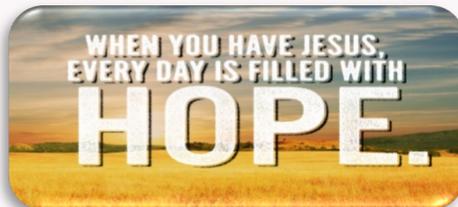


Introduction: We want to reflect on six examples concerning the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and how he brought hope to the lives of the people who encountered Him in the first century.

1. **There is hope in Christ when you are overwhelmed with the burden of sin (John 3:1-21; Luke 19:1-10).** Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a distinguished ruler among the Jews at that time. Zacchaeus was a tax collector who enriched himself unjustly. These two men were spiritually bankrupt. Jesus intervened and they went back home with unspeakable joy.
2. **There is hope in Christ after a season of toiling (Luke 5:1-11; John 21:1-14).** The story of the miraculous catch of fish took place at the beginning of the ministry of Jesus. Peter, James, and John (the sons of Zebedee) experienced something that never happened throughout their fishing career. Jesus showed up when they lost hope for a catch after toiling throughout the night (cf. John 21:1-14).
3. **There is hope in Christ when you are in health crisis (Mark 1:23-28, Matthew 17:14-21; Luke 8:43-48).** There were many sick people during the earthly ministry of Jesus; and He responded to their physical and spiritual needs. Jesus casted out unclean spirits, healed many lepers, cured the paralytic, gave remedy to the deaf and the dumb, opened the eyes of the blind and raised dead persons back to life.
4. **There is hope in Christ during storms of life (Matthew 8:23-27).** Jesus invited the disciples to travel with Him to the other side of the sea. He was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion when a storm occurred and battered their boat. The disciples woke him up as their only hope and He rebuked the wind. There was peace, a great calm and serenity because the winds and the waves obeyed Him.
5. **There is hope in Christ during hunger and financial scarcity (Luke 4:18-19, Matthew 14:15-21; 15:32-39).** Jesus fed thousands of people on many occasions. He brought hope to the hungry, outcasts, and the oppressed. Jesus is our hope amid the financial turmoil, and pestilences happening around the world.
6. **There is hope in Christ in hopeless situations (John 2:12; Luke 7:11-18; Matthew 9:18-26; John 11:1-46).** Jesus stepped into some hopeless and dead-end situations in His earthly ministry. He turned water to wine at Cana in Galilee. He raised the widow's son from the dead in a town called Nain and brought back Lazarus to life after four days.

Conclusion: We can use all these examples to encourage ourselves today that there is hope in Christ. Jesus is still working in our midst today through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 3 April 2022

Topic: The Doctrine of the Lord

Text: Acts 13:6-12

Introduction: The Roman governor of Cyprus heard the gospel. He had Caesar's power and authority backed by Roman legions. He was greatly surprised and amazed at the Lord's doctrine after witnessing God's judgement (blindness) and experiencing salvation. The word Doctrine means a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by the Church.

Faith and hearing: Acts 13:7; Romans 10:17; Joshua 2:2,3

There is a very strong and inseparable link between believing faith and hearing God's word. Sergius Paulus the governor was interested in hearing God's word so he called for Paul and Barnabas who had journeyed to Cyprus at Paphos. Due to Sergius Paulus' position as Roman governor, intelligence report would have reached him about any notable person whether ministers or spies coming to the Island.

Acceptance and opposition: Acts 13:6-8; John 10:10; Matthew 13:4,

Wherever the gospel is preached there will be opposition.

Elymas or Bar-Jesus the sorcerer already had an attendant relationship with governor Sergius Paulus. He also made his living practicing sorcery. The church at Antioch sent prophets and teachers out including Saul and Barnabas. They taught the doctrine of the Lord but Elymas taught Satan's doctrine and openly opposed the gospel message. Sometimes when the gospel is preached, Satan will plant stumbling blocks and detractors like Bar-Jesus in the path of those who are seeking to understand the truth. But God is able to remove all obstacles.

Salvation and Judgement: Acts 13:9-12; 1 John 4:4; Matthew 25:31-46; Heb. 10:31

When Bar-Jesus showed no sign of repentance, arrogant and prideful by satanic powers, he was humbled and judged by God - blindness. The high and thick wall of Jericho fell down flat by God's power. Elymas' blindness became a beacon of light for the deputy, Sergius Paulus. When the governor saw what had happened to the sorcerer, he was amazed by the teaching he received from Barnabas and Paul, and he became a believer. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, worked a wonder on the false wonder-worker Elymas by striking him blind with his word, thus revealing to the governor that backing Paul and Barnabas is the Divine power of Almighty God. Christianity is superior to sorcery, magic or any religion. Paul was filled with the Holy Ghost but Elymas was full of all subtilty and all mischief. Salvation came to Sergius Paulus the Governor and judgement came upon Elymas the sorcerer.

Conclusion: God calls heaven and earth to record this day against us, He has set before us life and death, blessing and cursing (Jeremiah 21:8; Deuteronomy 30:19-20). The choice is ours.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 10 April 2022

Topic: The Odour of Sin and Death

Text: Mark 14:1-8

Introduction: Death has an odour, it is distinctive and sickly-sweet, it is immediately recognisable and hard to forget. Sin creates a stench which causes human lives to stink. The event during Passover is a plot by the chief priests and scribes to take Jesus by con and put Him to death. This is contrary to the sixth and ninth commandments: Thou shalt not kill and Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour (Exodus 20:13,16). The first Passover occurred when the Angel of death passed over the Israelites but killed Egyptian firstborns.

The message examines Water, Perfumes and Blood, and their usage to cover or remove the odour of sin and death.

Water: Matthew 27:24; Acts 9:36-43

Water is the most natural thing humans use when they want to clean or cover the odour of sin and death. It is an abundant, odourless and easily accessible solvent that dissolves dirt stains. Pontus Pilate, Judaea's governor tried to use water to wash away the guilt of sin but could not. Other people have tried and are still trying to wash away the odour of sin and death with water but to no avail. Washing and dressing dead bodies are acts of intimacy, respect and accepted norms, yet remove not the odour of sin and death.

Perfumes/Ointments: Mark 14:8; Genesis 50:1-3; Mark 16:1

Humans use perfumes due to good odour and tendency to dissolve insoluble oil stains. Industrial insights state that the global perfume market was valued at \$31.4 billion in 2018.

Jesus remarked that the woman with the ointment did what she could by anointing His body for burying. After Jesus' death, a disciple bought and used spices for His burial. Then, other followers bought spices after the burial. Perfumes and ointments were used in Old Testament times for Jacob, Joseph, Asa (Gen 50:1-3; 2 Chr 16:14). Oil and perfume can make the heart glad (Prov 27:9) they cannot remove the odour of sin and death.

Blood: Leviticus 17:11; Hebrews 9:14; Hebrews 10:4,12; 1 John 1:7 Acts 2:24

Blood is God's ordained means to effect atonement. There is life and power in blood. Animals' blood is not powerful enough to bring redemption from mankind's curse. Any other type of human blood is too contaminated to suffice. Only the blood of Jesus accomplishes this great task. On Calvary's cross, God accepted Jesus' own blood sacrifice. Jesus' final words were '**it is finished**', mission accomplished. Then on the third day, Jesus rose again. The grave could not keep Him, they found an empty tomb. Death could not hold Him, Jesus appeared to them alive.

Conclusion: If you are stinking, emitting the odour of sin and death then you must seek for Jesus. Jesus' blood cleanses and purges. Jesus' blood is your ticket to boldly enter directly into God's presence.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

HEBREWS 9:14

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Date: 17 April 2022

Topic: There is hope in Christ (Part 2)

Text: Colossians 2:9-15



Introduction: (verses 9-10a) The message that apostle Paul was conveying to the Christians at Colossae in the first century was that there is hope in Christ. Paul mentioned four important areas where there is hope for us through Christ in this passage:

1. There is hope of victory over the world (verse 10b).

This is a reference to the world systems seeking to contaminate our lives regularly. The good news is that Jesus is the head over everything that is in the world because all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Him (Matthew 28:18; cf. John 16:33).

2. There is hope of victory over the flesh and sin (verses 11, 13-14).

It is amazing that Jesus paid the debt of sin that he did not owe. In contrast, the entire human race owed the debt of sin that we cannot pay. It was the sacrificial death of Jesus during the first Easter that washed all our sins away. We can now sing amazing grace because Jesus paid it all (Romans 7:21-25).

3. There is hope of victory over physical and spiritual death (verse 12).

The sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden led to physical and spiritual death. Since then, humans have been looking for different ways to address this problem. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ eventually gave us solution and divine intervention to physical and spiritual death. Jesus has swallowed up death in victory (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

4. There is hope of victory over Satan (verse 15).

We can rejoice today because Jesus has come down to crush the head of Satan and made a public spectacle of him. Jesus disarmed him of his deathly power (Ephesians 1:19-23). In real world of warfare, defeated soldiers always surrender to become prisoners of war after they have been disarmed. The implication is that Satan and his cohorts have become prisoners of war in heavenly spiritual warfare.

Conclusion: The resurrection of Jesus Christ reminds us that there is hope, peace, victory, and solution in Christ.

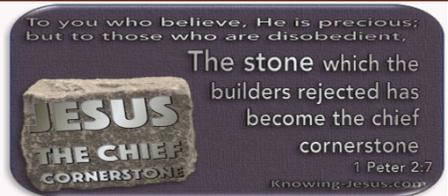
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 24 April 2022

Topic: The Chief Corner Stone

Text: 1 Peter 2:4-8



Introduction: A cornerstone served as the basis for the foundation of the structure of a building. If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? (Psalm 11:3). Apostle Peter affirmed that Jesus of Nazareth was the Cornerstone whom Isaiah and the Book of Psalms described—the Messiah, who would also be stumbled over, rejected and cast aside by Israel religious leaders.

The Stone the Builders rejected: Apostle Peter believed Jesus is the Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:3-8). The messianic credentials of Jesus Christ were examined by the false religious leaders of Israel and contemptuously rejected. However, Jesus Christ, God’s precious and elected Son’s Messianic credential was ultimately authenticated through His resurrection from the dead.

Christ Jesus as the Corner Stone: The Messiah is referred to as “the cornerstone,” (Isaiah 28:16-17). In context, the LORD was speaking to the scoffers and boasters of Judah, and He promised to send the Cornerstone—His precious Son—who will provide the firm foundation for their lives, if they would but trust in Him. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Reliable Corner Stone: In the days of Isaiah, the leaders of Judah and Israel chose to put their trust in their own political savvy and through various military alliances, they thought they could hold their nations together. However, this shaky cornerstone ultimately failed and Judah was taken captive by the Babylonians and Israel by the Assyrians. Peter says that Jesus Christ, as our Cornerstone, is “chosen by God and precious to Him” and this Cornerstone is reliable (1 Peter 2:4,6; 2 Timothy 1:12).

He is the Stone of stumbling: Apostle Peter cites Isaiah who foresaw that the Messiah would be a sanctuary for some but a stone of stumbling and rock of offense for others, including both houses of Israel and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (Isaiah 8:14). From the very beginning, Jesus of Nazareth was “a Stone that causes people to stumble and a Rock that makes them fall” (1 Peter 2:8; Mark 12:10; Psalm 118:22). Judgment is promised to all those who reject Christ (Matthew 21:44).

Shall not be put to shame: Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ will never be put to shame (Romans 10:11; Joel 2:26-27; Psalm 25:3). They will enjoy a double share of honour. They will possess a double portion of prosperity in their land, and everlasting joy will be theirs (Isaiah 61:7). Jesus is the focus of our faith, the one we can trust to help us overcome our shame once and for all (Psalm 34:5).

Conclusion: When we acknowledge the Rock who is Christ as Our Cornerstone, we discover not a monstrous and crushing weight but “a precious Cornerstone for a sure foundation,” in whom “the one who trusts will never be dismayed” (Isaiah 28:16).

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

Date: 1 May 2022

Topic: There is hope in Christ (Part 3)

Text: Romans 15:4



Introduction: The main point of this teaching is that our hope in Christ is a biblical principle and a strong spiritual force in our Christian journey. We cannot walk with God without hope. Let us examine five among the many things that we need to know about our hope in Christ.

1. Our hope in Christ guarantees our salvation (Rms. 8:24-25).

Paul emphasised that we are saved through our hope in Christ. We did not see Him, yet we believe and hope in Him. This has stimulated us to wait patiently for His return. Jesus Christ showed us hope through His sacrificial death on the cross of Calvary and resurrection. Our salvation is guaranteed when we put our hope in the finished work of Christ.

2. Our hope in Christ gives us security (Job 11:18-19).

This passage highlights four things that will happen when you put your hope and confidence in God. (i) You will be secure (Job 11:18a). (ii) You will look around and take your rest in safety (Job 11:18b). (iii) You will lie down, and no one will make you afraid (Job 11:19a). (iv) Many people will desire your favour (Job 11:19b). Our hope in Christ gives us security irrespective of what is happening in the world.

3. Our hope in Christ delights God (Psalm 147:11).

This verse shows that referencing God and hoping in His unfailing love go together. You cannot do one and leave the other. God looks down from heaven to express His satisfaction with those who hope in Him.

4. Our hope in Christ helps us to be patient in tribulation (Romans 12:12).

Paul described three ways by which we live above our circumstances, no matter what life throws at us. (i) Be joyful in hope. (ii) Be patient in affliction. (iii) Be faithful in prayer.

5. Our hope in Christ does not disappoint (Romans 5:1-5).

Apostle Paul drew from his experience and declared that 'hope does not put us to shame.' The implication is that our God does not disappoint those who hope in Him. You cannot put your hope in Christ and lose at the end. All things will eventually work out for your good.

Conclusion: As Charles Spurgeon rightly notes, 'without Christ there is no hope.' He is the hope of the world (Romans 15:13).

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

WHATEVER WAS WRITTEN AHEAD OF TIME,
YOU SEE, WAS WRITTEN FOR US TO LEARN FROM,
SO THAT THROUGH PATIENCE, AND THROUGH
THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE BIBLE,
WE MIGHT HAVE HOPE.
ROMANS 15:4



Date: 8 May 2022

Topic: Renewing your commitment before God

Text: Nehemiah 10:28-39



Introduction: Nehemiah 8:1-10:27 is the context for our understanding Nehemiah 10:28-39. Let us consider the four key areas where the Israelites renewed their commitment before God:

1. Renewal of commitment to the word of God (verse 29).

The Israelites and their nobles made a pledge before Yahweh that they will follow the Law of the Lord that Moses (the servant of God) gave them. They also promised to obey carefully all the commands, regulations, and decrees of the Lord. This was a big commitment. Renewing your commitment to the word of God will motivate you to read, meditate, memorise, obey, and apply it to your life.

2. Renewal of commitment to purity (verse 28 and 30).

The priests, Levites, gatekeepers, musicians, temple servants and other people promised to purify themselves by not allowing their sons and daughters to marry foreigners. They made a covenant to set themselves aside for the Lord. The greatest challenge of our time in the 21st century is that there is no distinctive difference between Christians and the unbelievers. Worldliness has taken over the activities of most churches and many Christians live their lives on worldly principles instead of biblical principles.

3. Renewal of commitment to rest (verse 31).

The people made a covenant to keep the Lord's Day holy. They decided not to buy or sell to the neighbouring peoples on the Sabbath and other holy days. They agreed to allow the land to rest on the seventh year and to cancel the debts of their debtors. God created the world and the things therein in six days. God rested on the seventh day.

4. Renewal of commitment to support the house of the Lord (verses 32-39).

The people made a pledge to donate extra percentage of their earnings each year for the work of God. They want to make provisions for the necessities and duties in the house of God. They promised to ensure that the storerooms of the house of the Lord is full of meat so that those who minister before the Lord would not lack anything. They made a resolution that they will not neglect the house of the Lord.

Conclusion: It is not too late for you today to renew your commitment before God, but tomorrow may be too late. Ezra, Nehemiah, the leaders of the Jews and the people at that time made this commitment some thousands of years ago. What commitment will you make before Jesus today?

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 15 May 2022

Topic: The God of possibility

Text: Philippians 1:6



Introduction (verse 1:6a): Apostle Paul mentioned that he was confident that the God of possibility can do in the lives of those who put their trust in Him. We can see three things about the God of possibility in this passage:

1. The God of possibility who has the capacity to begin (verse 1:6b).

The Bible says, 'that he who began a good work in you.' Paul was confident that God is able to start something great through us. God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He is the founder of the institution of marriage. In fact, all things have their origin in Him.

2. The God of possibility who has the capacity to sustain (verse 1:6c).

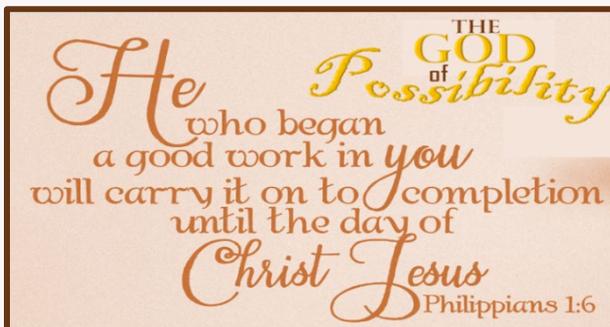
The Bible says, 'will carry it on.' Paul had confidence in God who can sustain things. He has a track record in sustaining whatever he started. In the same vein, God expects us to keep up the good work we are doing. We should carry on even when others think it would be better for us to give up. We should continue with the assignment that He has given us despite all odds.

3. The God who of possibility who has the capacity to finish (verse 1:6d).

The Bible says, 'to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' Paul described our God as a finisher. He expressed confidence in the God that will finish whatever He started. This is about perseverance and developing an enduring spirit of patient. There can be no successful end without a beginning and rigorous effort to continue.

Conclusion: The Bible confirms that our God is the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13; 1:8; 21:6-7; 1:17-18). He is the first and the last (Isaiah 44:6). In my view, God is even more than that. We can see from this verse that our God is the beginner, sustainer and finisher. He is the God of the beginning, middle and the end.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 22 May 2022

Topic: Contentment in Christ alone

Text: Hebrews 13:5

Introduction: The writer of Hebrews gave us three commands that we should always follow in this verse if we want to experience contentment in Christ alone:

1. Command to keep our lives free from the love of money' (verse 5a).

There are two powerful phrases here.

The first is 'keep your lives free.' This means 'to stay clear' or avoid.' The second is 'love of money.' This refers to an uncontrolled appetite to get money at all costs including sinning against God.' The Bible did not condemn money or working hard to be rich as a Christian. The warning is against the love of money. We live in a fallen world where the love of money is regularly creating an attachment to the system of this world which is standing in the way of our desire to please God (1 Timothy 6:10; cf. 2 Timothy 3:2).

2. Command to be content with what we have (verse 5b).

This command offers evidence that financial pressure was a big problem in the first century when this epistle was written as it is for us today. Many Christians were not content with what they had. They took advantage of others for their own financial benefit. As Warren Wiersbe rightly notes, 'real contentment must come from within. You and I cannot change or control the world around us, but we can change and control the world within us.' Similarly, John Piper says, 'sin is what you do when you are not satisfied in God.'

3. Command to stand on God's promise of provision (verse 5c).

This part of the verse reminds us that our needs are met according to God's will in Jesus Christ, rather than our personal prosperity. This promise is reserved for a life that is built on faith in Christ alone. God made the statement 'never will I leave you; never will I forsake you' throughout the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 31:6; Deuteronomy 31:8; Joshua 1:5; Joshua 1:9; 1 Chronicles 28:20; Psalms 55:22; Psalms 73:23; Isaiah 3:10; Isaiah 41:10 etc). Jesus promised to be with us to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). The writer of Hebrews re-echoed it to his readers in the first century. This statement is also applicable to us today.

Conclusion: Contentment in Christ helps us to conquer the lusts of the world, the flesh, and the pride of life. It calms our troubled spirit and brings inner peace that motivates us to cast all our cares on Him (Philippians 4:11-13). However, contentment in Christ alone is not a license for laziness. We must work hard to fulfil our destinies and have a good life. As A.B. Simpson rightly notes, 'it is His joy that remains in us that makes our joy full.'

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Keep your life free from the love of money,
And be content with what you have,
for He has said....

*I will never leave you
nor forsake you*

Hebrews 13:5

Date: 29 May 2022

Topic: Where is the promise of His coming?

Text: 2 Peter 3:2-7

Introduction: Apostle Peter admonishes that we need to give greater thoughts to Biblical prophecy about Christ's second coming than to newspaper articles, scientific publications, human philosophy, experts advices and their commentaries. Reason is that the Bible is the word of God, we must take it to mind and heart. The word of God is always true, on the other hand, human words may be fact or fiction or just thoughts.

Human Ignorance: 2 Peter 3:5

Those who claim to know it all are willingly ignorant. No expert on any academic field can profess to know it all. No artisan of any trade can boast of total mastery of an art or skill. However good or excellent, our reasonings fall short when it comes to rationalising the things of God. It fails woefully in God's higher thoughts. Human reasoning has brought great improvements and innovations in arts, science, medicine and technology to bring comfort, health, safety, general wellbeing. However all human achievements are always prone to error.

His Promise: 2 Peter 3:9; Numbers 23:19; Titus 1:2; Isaiah 53

The Scripture is neither vague nor equivocal on the promise of Christ's return. Prophetic passages make references to the Second Coming of Christ or related events. It is a major theme in Old and New Testaments prophecy. The Scripture says God "cannot lie" and that He will not change His mind. What He has promised, He will do. God has a track record of keeping His promises, the flood Genesis 7:24-8:5, Israel's deliverance Genesis 15:14, Exodus 12:40, World governments and Christ's kingdom Daniel 2:32. Of the over 100 prophecies dealing with the first advent of Christ, all of them were fulfilled precisely, literally. His riding on a donkey, the parting of His garments, the piercing of His hands and feet, and His rejection by men. The end of the world will come in accordance to the purpose and plan of God as prophesied or foretold in Scripture and not by human reasons. Therefore, do not be fooled, Christ will return.

Hour of arrival: 2 Peter 3:9,10; Revelations 16:15; Matthew 24:43; 1 Thessalonians 5:2-6. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night to the scoffers and unbelievers. Apostle Peter wants believers to better understand that it will be a surprised return. The world will be surprised but believers will understand that God is at work. Christians' focus should be on righteous living. The Church is encouraged to be different from the world, awake and prepared, connected to the Holy Spirit, and ready for the day that Jesus will return to bring judgment to our world.

Conclusion: Whose report will you believe? The Scripture or what the scoffers are saying. I know whom I have believed, Jesus is coming. The hour of arrival is what we do not know.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 5 June 2022

Topic: The Believer's Supreme Act of Spirituality

Text: Romans 12:1-2

Introduction: (verse 1a). Christian spirituality is about our relationship with the triune God (the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). There are four important appeals in this passage for believers who want to express their act of spirituality:

Appeal 1. Offer your body to God as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1b & c). The phrase 'living sacrifice' is about rededicating your life to God and living to serve Him constantly. It is about making yourself available at God's disposal and expressing your willingness to obey Him. Since Jesus Christ sacrificially gave himself to us, we too should respond by giving our lives to him.

Appeal 2. Refuse to conform to the patterns of this world (Romans 12:2a). Conforming to the pattern of this world means collaborating with sin and living a worldly lifestyle. It is about thinking, talking, and behaving in a worldly way. There are so many things around us that can tempt us to sin. We must be intentional by walking in holiness before God because we are the only Bible some unbelievers will ever read.

Appeal 3. Renew your mind through God's word and the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:2b). Apostle Paul cautions that the mind can be contaminated with worldly stuffs unless it is renewed daily with the word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Focusing your attention on the world can make you stumble; but focusing on God's word will make you stand. The implication is that the anointing of yesterday is not enough for the challenges of today. The word of God is the mirror that helps us to detect areas for improvement.

Appeal 4. Walk in God's perfect will (Romans 12:2c). This part of the verse mentioned three characteristics of the will of God. First, the will of God is good. Second, the will of God is pleasing. Third, the will of God is perfect. Walking in the will of God helps us to see hope amid hopelessness. It helps us to experience peace amid chaos. It convinces us that all things work together for the good of those who walk according to His will and purpose.

Conclusion: The main point of Apostle Paul in this passage is that the believer's supreme act of spirituality can be achieved doing these four things. You should offer your body to God as a living sacrifice, refuse to conform to the patterns of this world, renew your mind through God's word and the power of the Holy Spirit and walk in God's perfect will.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

***be transformed
by the renewal
of your mind***

ROMANS 12:2

Date: 12 June 2022

Topic: Dealing with your period of nothingness

Text: Genesis 1:1-5



Introduction: The word void means nothing, and that it lacks life. God created everything out of nothing but wants us to be creative from something. God said let there be light and there was light. Until God speaks to our nothingness we cannot come out and be something or someone of eternal value or impact. God must speak to bring you out of obscurity, frustration, darkness, hopelessness into limelight, solutions and blessings.

You must pray: Philippians 4:6; James 5:13

For God to speak, you must pray in a situation where nothing is happening. Do not be frustrated or discouraged it is what God says that matters. Anything that is not secured by prayer has no future guaranty. We must make our request to God until we have His peace that passes all understanding keeping our heart, healing our minds, securing our hope and giving us assurances.

There is a grace: 2 Timothy 4:16-18

Because the seed is sown does not mean it will germinate immediately. The period of nothingness is a period of temptation, hopelessness, helplessness, tiredness. Do not give up or throwing in the towel. There is an unusual grace that God gives when there is nothing happening around you. Take the example of the bamboo tree, it takes four years of continuous watering, it emerges in the fifth year and keeps growing. God will give you that grace and strength to continue.

Discovering God: John 15:5 Until you discover the God of nothingness you cannot be used for anything significant. Until you learn to be alone with the Father you cannot qualify for those that He will be bringing into your life. If you have not been through nothing, then you will not be able to speak to the forsaken or rejected or downtrodden. God allows you to go through the nothingness period to strip you of unnecessary things and to make Himself all that matters to you. God becomes everything to you, and you become rooted and grounded in Him.

Period of knowledge: John 6:56-69 The period of nothingness is the time we know faithful followers. Jesus fed the multitude but when He told them that they must eat His flesh and drink His blood, majority of the followers including disciples departed. The 12 confirmed that Jesus has the word of eternal life. If you are building a structure to last, then the foundation is most important. It is also important to lay the foundation with the right people with right intentions, taught to trust only in God almighty.

Period of test: Job 1:9; 2 Timothy 2:20 Your intentions shall be tested. There are seven types of test and one of the tests you will go through is faithfulness test. Will you continue to trust God even when nothing is happening? The true test is to ensure that your life is centred around God only. A time is coming when nobody will believe in you. But, after you have suffered for a while, God will strengthened you. God will make you stand and bring remedy and succour.

Conclusion: Sow in righteousness. Ask for unusual grace and mercy to assist you. Keep your eyes on Jesus who started your faith till the end.

Guest Preacher: Pastor David Lewis



Date: 19 June 2022

Topic: Biblical perspective on resolving conflict in marriage (Part 1)

Text: Matthew 18:15-16

Introduction. The Cambridge English Dictionary defines conflict as ‘to fight or disagree actively.’ Occasional conflict in marriage is both normal and inevitable. Let us examine eight among the many resolutions that you must make towards resolving conflict in your marriage:

1. **Resolve to accept each other’s imperfection.** This is about making allowance for human imperfections and showing the willingness to overlook each other’s faults (Colossians 3:13).
2. **Resolve to watch out for the triggers.** Write down the common triggers for arguments in your relationship and discuss how to resolve them with your spouse.
3. **Resolve to respond to each other with the right attitude.** Conflict may test your faith, reveal the sin in your heart, develop your character, and draw you closer to God. The conflict can produce ‘perseverance, character, and hope’ (Romans 5:3-5 cf. James 1:2-4).
4. **Resolve to focus on the positives.** You should focus on the positive aspects of your spouse and marriage rather than dwelling on the negatives (1 Thessalonians 5:11 cf. Ephesians 4:29). Always remember that you are responsible for your own response or action.
5. **Resolve to leave the revenge to God.** You should allow God to work on your spouse’s heart and fight on your behalf. What benefit would you derive from wounding your spouse because you have been wounded? (Romans 12:19).
6. **Resolve to avoid the blame game.** It is natural to the human flesh to want to blame others for your mistakes, but you must resist that temptation. For example, Adam blamed God and Eve when he ate the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:12). Eve also blamed the serpent (Genesis 3:13; Galatians 5:20).
7. **Resolve to persevere and make your marriage work.** The natural response to conflict in marriage is to give up and quit without making any effort. You should hold on and let perseverance finish its work (Galatians 6:9).
8. **Resolve to sow good seeds even when it is uncomfortable.** The principle of sowing and reaping is also applicable to marriage. You reap what you sow, reap where you have sown, and reap more than what you have sown (Galatians 6:7).

Conclusion: The Bible has so much to say about conflict resolution in marriage and interpersonal relationship. Conflict is part of the result of the fall of man. We are all prone to conflict especially with the people that we love most.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

If your brother sins against you,
go and rebuke him in private.
If he listens to you,
you have won your brother.

Matthew 18:15

Date: 26 June 2022

Topic: Running with patience

Text: Hebrews 12:1-2

Introduction: The race believers must run with patience is the persevering obedience of faith in Jesus Christ. Running is in contradiction with patience but synonymous with racing or hastening. God has set this race's parameters to include patience. The imagery is that of ancient Greece Olympic Games, and Roman amphitheatres footraces. Written to believers as encouragement to persevere in faith, especially in times of challenges. Four things are noted in this admonition.

The cloud of witnesses: Hebrews 12:1a

Athletes on tracks, courts or fields are surrounded by rows of spectators, pictured as a great cloud of witnesses. The "witnesses" in a cloud are believers listed in Hebrews 11, men and women of God whose faithful lives were recorded in the Bible. These saints persevered despite unimaginable opposition and were commended for their faithfulness. Their testimonies live on and are deemed to be watching us if we can match or break their records of faithfulness.

The laying aside of weights and sin: Hebrews 12:1b; Ephesians 4:22

The race demands that we do away with everything that hinders; sin and whatever else threatens our relationship with God. A full Yoruba regalia which consist of ewu awotele, Kembe, Buba, Dansiki, Agbada, Fila is not fit for riding a bicycle. We must put off our old self and put on the new self, created to be like God in righteousness and holiness.

The race before us: Hebrews 12:1c; Galatians 1:15-17

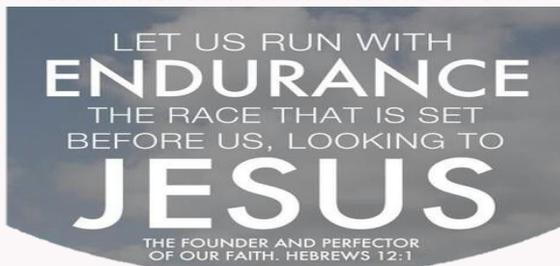
We did not select the race's course but God established it to be ran with patience. We must either win the crown of glory, or have everlasting misery for our portion. Is everyone called or selected to run a race? No. But we have been selected, chosen, separated to run the race with patience for Him.

The focus is on Jesus: Hebrews 12:2; Lamentations 3:25; Matthew 6:33

Athletes' focus on prizes, money, records, glory, honour. Our focus is Jesus no matter how long the race may be. As we run, we must look away from all distractions, the deserters and the mockers. We must commit to run to the very end with daily regimen of prayer, worship, reading God's Word and meditation. We persevere by maintaining a Christlike attitude even in the midst of trials and challenges.

Conclusion: The race we run with patience is not for perishables but an incorruptible crown of glory set before the faithful finishers.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 3 July 2022

Topic: Biblical perspective on resolving conflict in marriage (Part 2)

Text: Matthew 18:15-16

Introduction: The decision you make at the point of conflict will determine whether the situation will harm your relationship or help you grow together. Let us examine nine more resolutions that you must make towards resolving conflict in your marriage:

- 1. Resolve to keep the line of communication open.** It is important to talk to your spouse first before talking to a third party about your conflict (Matthew 18:15). Speaking to your spouse first is evidence of respect and this can help you address the conflict quickly without inviting a third party.
- 2. Resolve to seek wise and godly counselling.** You need the support of a Christian counsellor when you realise that you and your spouse cannot handle the conflict alone (Proverbs 11:14).
- 3. Resolve to seek immediate conflict resolution.** You and your spouse should agree early in your relationship that you will not allow the sun to go down while you are still angry and give the devil a foothold in your marriage (Ephesians 4:26-27).
- 4. Resolve to express unconditional love.** Expressing unconditional love will help you to overlook the faults of your spouse and enjoy your lives together (1 Peter 4:8).
- 5. Resolve to sacrifice something for the sake of peace.** The root of most conflicts in marriage can be linked to selfish ambition and unwillingness to sacrifice. You should be willing to follow Jesus' command of loving God wholeheartedly and loving others, including your spouse (Matthew 22:36-40).
- 6. Resolve to manage your temper in times of conflict.** Unmanaged anger can make you think, speak, and act in a foolish manner (Proverbs 14:29 cf. Proverbs 19:3). The decision you make when you are angry may not be helpful for your marriage in the long run.
- 7. Resolve to pray together.** Your spouse should be your prayer partner. Regular prayer between you and your spouse will reduce conflict (1 Thessalonians 5:17-18; James 5:16).
- 8. Resolve to forgive and receive forgiveness.** It is counterproductive to keep reminding your spouse about past failures and mistakes. You should show compassion and forgive your spouse as Christ has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13).
- 9. Resolve to treat your spouse with respect.** Conflict is not a licence for you to disrespect your spouse. You should focus on the problem, and not the person. Always remember that you are not enemies amid your conflict (Ephesians 5:21).

Conclusion: Conflict resolution in marriage is one of the primary ways to improve the relationship with your spouse. Therefore, we must prepare for it in the context of marriage ahead of time.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 10 July 2022

Topic: The gardener, the true vine, and the branches

Text: John 15:1-17

Introduction: Jesus used the imagery of the gardener, the vine, and the branches to analyse the relationship between God the Father, the Son, and believers in Christ. This passage can be divided into three parts:

1. **Jesus is the true vine (verse 1a, 5a).** Jesus used the metaphor of the true vine to encourage the disciples after informing them about His departure. 'I am the true vine,' is a definitive or emphatic distinction between Jesus and anyone else who might claim to be a vine. Jesus is the authentic vine who offers us shade, privacy, protection, beautification, and enables us to be fruitful.

2. **God the Father is the gardener (verse 1c-2).** Jesus confirmed that God (the Father) is the gardener (verse 1b). The gardener is the person in charge of the garden. God (the Father) is the creator and Master of the universe. Verse 2 highlights the responsibilities of the gardener. First, He cuts off every branch that is not bearing fruit (verse 2a). Second, He nurtures and prunes every branch that is bearing fruit so that it will be more fruitful (verse 2b). What are the things that have taken deep roots in your life that separating yourself from them can cause pain? God's act of pruning is a necessary process if you want to be a fruitful Christian.

3. **The followers of Jesus Christ are the branches (verses 1b, 3-17).** Jesus mentioned six things that we need to do if we are to remain as true branches: First, we must allow the word of God to make us clean (verse 3). Second, we must remain in Christ (verses 4-7). Third, we must remain in the love of Christ (verses 9-11). Fourth, we must love each other (verses 12, 13 & 17). Fifth, we must recognise our identity in Christ (verses 14-15). Sixth, we must bear lasting fruit for Jesus (verses 8 & 16). The outcome of bearing fruit for Jesus is that God the Father will be glorified, the fruit will last forever, and our prayers shall be answered.

Conclusion: Jesus is the true vine, God the Father is the gardener, and we are the branches. We have a responsibility to abide and connect with the triune God. We cannot survive the battles of life without Christ. We cannot do anything without Christ. Healthy trees can be recognised through the good fruits that they produce. Healthy Christians can also be recognised 'by their fruit (Matthew 7:16–20).

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 17 July 2022

Topic: The persecution of Christians

Text: John 15:18-25

Introduction: Persecution of Christians is the act of harassing or oppressing followers of Jesus Christ or a group of people, especially because of their identity and their profession of Jesus Christ. Seven important facts about the persecution of Christians

Fact 1. The world hated Jesus Christ first before hating the Christians (verse 18). Jesus emphasised that the world hated Him before they turned their hatred to His followers. Therefore, it should not come as a surprise whenever we find ourselves amid persecution.

Fact 2. Christians are persecuted because they do not belong to the world (verse 19a). Jesus stated that the reason why Christians are persecuted is because they do not belong to the world. They are citizens of heaven who have resolved to distinguish themselves from the world. They are children of God who will not conform to the patterns of this world.

Fact 3. Christians are persecuted because they are the chosen ones (verse 19b). Our position in Christ is enviable because we are the chosen one. Unfortunately, the world is not happy because we have been justified, sanctified, redeemed, and adopted into God's family through the sacrificial work of Jesus.

Fact 4. The world will do to Christians what they did to Jesus (verse 20). Apart from the early persecution of Christians by the Jews in the book of Acts, this statement of Jesus was later fulfilled in church history. Nero (the sixth emperor of Rome) was notable for his persecution of the Church around 67 CE. Emperor Domitian and others also persecuted Christians.

Fact 5. Christians are being persecuted because of the name of Jesus (verse 21). The name of Jesus is the name that the world does not want to hear. The cross of Jesus is an offence to the world (1 Corinthians 1:18). I agree with Paul Chappell that 'the devil doesn't persecute those who aren't making a godly difference in the world.'

Fact 6. Those who hate Christians hate the triune God (verses 23, 25). Jesus declared that those who hate Him also hate the Father who sent Him. Can they explain the reason behind their hatred? No. For example, Saul was on his way to persecute the Christians at Damascus when Jesus appeared to him and said 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me' (Acts 9:3-5).

Fact 7. Those who hate Jesus and Christians will be guilty at the end (verses 22, 24). Jesus mentioned that the persecutors of Christians are guilty of sin. They have no excuse because they have heard His words and seen His mighty works. They will appear before the white throne judgement in the future.

Conclusion: The global data about the persecution of Christians is disturbing. Nonetheless, the good news is that the church of Jesus Christ can never die because of persecution.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 24 July 2022

Topic: Hear my cry, O God

Text: Psalm 61:1-2

Introduction: David's prayer to the LORD demonstrates a godly response to an overwhelming and depressing developments in his life. David felt he was "at the end of the Earth" and God is way off yonder and far from hearing his heart cry. In Psalm 22 David was away from his comfort zone and discouraged. He asked the Lord for guidance (Psalm 61:1-5), called God his Rock (61:1-2), his Fortress (61:3) and wished to dwell in the shelter of His wings (61:4-5).

Hear my cry, O God: This is no ordinary prayer, it is a cry from the heart—from the depth of a person's soul and that was David's prayer. Psalm 17:1, It seems that David has been praying this prayer quite often. This time he went further and wants immediate attention paid to his prayer.

From the end of the earth: King David was figuratively at the end of his human limit, strength and resources. This phrase speaks of David's desperate need for the LORD to answer his prayers when he was far away from his comfortable, familiar, and safe zone.

When my heart is overwhelmed: In times when we feel the LORD is far from us and He is not speedily answering our prayers, our hearts can become overwhelmed. In such times, like David in Psalm 143:7, we cry out to God for mercy and plead with the LORD to answer us speedily.

Why Is God Referred to as the Rock in the Bible? The obvious metaphor of the LORD as the Rock points to Him as being strong and dependable (Deuteronomy 32:4,18; Psalms 18:31, 1-2; Daniel 2:44-45; 1 Samuel 2:1-2; Psalms 27:5; Proverbs 3:5-6; Isaiah 17:10; 44:8).

Lead me to the rock that is higher than I: David, humanly speaking had reached the top of the ladder and still realised that wasn't enough, and needed something higher than himself. This Rock that is literally "higher than" us which signifies God's protection and presence. David needed that Rock, which is a place of stability and security.

The Rock which I continually resort to: David continually looked to God as his Rock, his fortress, his protection, his deliverer. King David often calls God his Rock. It is a title we should feel comfortable using in our prayers (Psalm 71:3).

Their rock is not like our Rock: The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is the unassailable Rock of defence and impregnable fortress to His children. However, the people of the surrounding pagan nations considered their gods to be rocks as well (Deuteronomy 32:31,33:26; Isaiah 36:13,18-19; 2 Chronicles 32:19).

Conclusion: When our hearts are overwhelmed we can still resort to the tried and tested Rock of Ages (Romans 9: 33). This Rock is strong, steadfast, consistent, immovable, unchangeable, unshakable and a refuge for all who trust in Him (Psalm 34:15).

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori



Date: 31 July 2022

Topic: Holy Spirit, the Christian companion

Text: John 14:26; John 15:26-27

Introduction: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune God. Jesus Christ was talking to His disciples in this passage about what will happen after His departure from this world. He made a pledge that the Holy Spirit will become their companion, associate, partner, and intimate friend. There are five important things about the work of the Holy Spirit in these passages.

1. **The Holy Spirit is our advocate (John 14:26a; 15:26a).** The NIV renders the Holy Spirit as ‘advocate’ and the NKJV calls the Holy Spirit the comforter. These and many others are the things that the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives. This advocate is the one defending us whenever the devil accuses us before God the Father. This comforter descended on the day of Pentecost and is still dwelling with us till today.

2. **The Holy Spirit proceeded from God the Father (John 14:26b, John 15:26b).** The second part of the verse tells us about the origin of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is from God the Father through the Son. This procession shows that there is a collaboration between the three persons of the Godhead.

3. **The Holy Spirit teaches us all things (John 14:26c).** A teacher is the person who impacts knowledge or provides learning experience. The Holy Spirit teaches us all things pertaining to God and righteousness. The Holy Spirit also helps us to differentiate between sound biblical teaching and false teaching.

4. **The Holy Spirit reminds us what is necessary (John 14:26d).** Jesus mentioned another thing that the Holy Spirit will do for the disciples and future believers in Christ. The Holy Spirit will remind us about the spoken and written words. The Holy Spirit reminds us about the mighty works of God and the things that we have read in the Bible.

5. **The Holy Spirit testifies about Jesus Christ (John 15:26c).** Jesus emphasised that one of the assignments of the Holy Spirit is to testify about Him and authenticate His works on earth. The Holy Spirit also gives us boldness to preach the gospel (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit empowered the disciples for the work of ministry throughout the book of Acts.

Conclusion (John 15:27): Jesus ended His teaching with a challenge for the disciples to testify about Him. Apart from the testimony of the Holy Spirit and the early disciples, we also have a responsibility to testify about Jesus today. The Holy Spirit is the Christian companion because Jesus and the Bible said so.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 7 August 2022

Topic: Principles for Turnaround

Text: Ruth 3:1-5

Introduction: Everyone desires a positive life changing experience. There are things needed for a change of life. Our God is a God of method. In order to follow God there is a sequence that need to be followed. Naomi discouraged Ruth but Ruth refused as she can see a better tomorrow. She was not able to see it immediately but she knew there is hope.

1. Know what you are going after

If you want to succeed in life, know what you are going after. Our success holds onto the Lord, therefore hold unto the Lord who will make a way when you meet with opposition. What do you want in life? Pick up your battles carefully, do not fight every battle. Wake up in the morning and make something happen. Create what you want and do not wait for anyone to hand over something to you. What kind of woman is Ruth? She created a good life for herself by following the God of Naomi.

2. Wash your face.

Do not let your past determine your tomorrow. Everything you had seen before now wash it off. Be concerned about today not yesterday. Dust yourself and move on. You are not ready for your tomorrow if you do not wash your face. Naomi did not look to yesterday but gave instructions to Ruth about what to do for a better tomorrow, she was not thinking about yesterday. Education does not fix everything. Train yourself not to focus on yesterday. Anything you cannot change, let it go.

3. Anoint your face.

Put on a new attitude. Our negative attitude put us in the basement. Put on a positive attitude and do not complain about what you went through. Move forward. A fresh positive attitude is needed, do not take your life to work. Smile, do not wear yesterday as a cloth so that people cannot read when you are not happy. Serve the Lord with gratitude even when things are not going well and be full of gladness.

4. Change your garment.

Prepare for something that had not happen yet. Be hopeful of the destination where you are going. You are not there yet but you are dressed up for your destination. Get ready for tomorrow. Enjoy the best. God is in control of your tomorrow, so be prepared for His great, mighty and wondrous things.

Conclusion: Through Ruth we have the lineage of Christ. We are enjoying Christ today because Ruth decided to follow God's people and Naomi's instructions.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Timothy Ojetunde

Therefore **wash** yourself
and **anoint** yourself.
put on your **best** garment
and **go** Ruth 3:3



Date: 14 August 2022

Topic: Preaching to the Spirits in Prison

Text: 1 Peter 3:18-20; Luke 17:26-27; Matthew 24:37

Introduction: This passage affirms that Jesus Christ suffered and died in order to provide the benefits of salvation to unrighteous people. Peter also confirms that Jesus, during the days of Noah, proclaimed God's truth to the violent and wicked pre-flood generation. It appears people thought they were living normal lives during the time Noah lived and were oblivious to the impending disaster. They ate, drank, married and traded.

The Spirits in Prison: 1 Peter 3:19; 2 Peter 2:5; Genesis 29:20

Jesus preached to the spirits in prison in Noah's days. He operated through Noah, a preacher of righteousness.

Prisoners' rights or privileges do not avert confinement. A prisoner, caged animal or bird wants freedom. It is rather unfortunate that majority of people in prison by their addiction to the flesh's work are not aware that they are prisoners, hence they do not desire freedom (2 Peter 2:19; Galatians 5: 19-21). They are held in prison on earth awaiting trial and move on to eternal prison after death and judgment.

The Message of the Preacher: 1 Peter 3:18, 19; 1 Timothy 2:4

The preacher's message is to the spirits in prison, those who have not God's salvation experience. The message is that Jesus has the power to break every yoke. There is liberty, release, emancipation from imprisonment. The preacher's message is that there is a salvation plan for every soul. Jesus Christ suffered for sinners, that He might bring them to God, He died for our sins and was raised up for our justification, to bring us to eternal glory.

The longsuffering of God: 1 Peter 3:18-20; Genesis 6:11-13

The longsuffering of God will wait because of His love, but not wait forever. In Noah's generations, it waited while the ark was in preparation and the salvation message was preached to them, giving them the opportunity to repent. God waited patiently for heartfelt reformation. Unfortunately, there was no response, the people continued to live their lives the way they pleased. Imagine that other people were attracted or contributed to building Noah's ark but perished, labourers, artisans, traders, physicians, scoffers, family members and friends.

Conclusion: Keep on preaching to the prisoners, "the spirits in prison" as directed by the Spirit of Jesus. Those who repent will join the few that will be saved.

Preacher – Resident Pastor: Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 21 August 2022

Topic: Get wisdom, get understanding

Text: Proverbs 4:5-9

Introduction: The writer of the proverbs in this passage is passing down wisdom to his young son who is expected to become a leader in the future. We are sons and daughters of God, and this text is applicable to us all. There is a great future ahead of us, and we need wisdom to navigate our ways through it. We can divide this passage into three parts:

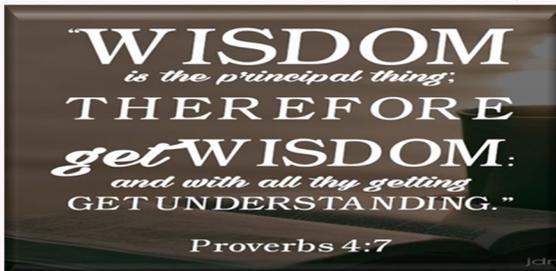
1. An appeal to the son to get wisdom and understanding (verses 5a, 7). The book of Proverbs has so much to say about the connection between knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Understanding means ‘perceptive insight with the ability to judge.’ Knowledge comes from God, through life experiences, skills, talents, and gifts that we acquired through our humility to learn. Wisdom on the other hand, is the application of the knowledge and understanding that we have gained over the years. The father in this passage made a passionate appeal to his son to get wisdom and understanding (verse 5a, 7). Wisdom is the most important thing you can get in life. You need wisdom to succeed in all aspects of life.

2. Instructions on how the son can get wisdom and understanding (verses 5b & c; 6 & 8). The father went further to highlight three things that the son should not do and three additional things that he must do to get wisdom. These are the six things that you also need to consider to get wisdom. First, do not forget the word of God that you have learnt (verse 5b). Second, do not turn away or reject the word of God (verse 5c). Third, do not forsake the wisdom that you have acquired from the word of God (verse 6a). Fourth, love and seek after God’s wisdom (verse 6b). Fifth, cherish wisdom (verse 8a). Sixth, embrace wisdom (verse 8b).

3. The benefits that the son can get from wisdom and understanding (verses 6, 8-9). The father mentioned five benefits that the son would enjoy after getting wisdom and understanding. First, wisdom will protect him from making mistakes (verse 6a). Second, wisdom will watch over him wherever he goes (verse 6b). Third, wisdom will exalt and lift him up (verse 8a). Fourth, wisdom will bring him honour (verse 8b). Fifth, wisdom will make him to stand out from others (verse 9). All these benefits are also reserved for Christians who are willing to get wisdom and understanding.

Conclusion: Wisdom is accessible to those who are humble. It is important to trust God to give you wisdom for all the decisions you make today, and this will prepare you for a glorious future.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 28 August 2022

Title: Reactions to the Lesser and Greater Miracles **Text:** Matthew 9:2-8; Mark 2:1-12

Introduction: Two miracles occurred here, the healing of the paralytic and the forgiveness of his sins. We should understand that sin may be pardoned, yet sickness not removed and the sickness may be removed, yet the sin not pardoned. Coming to a good physical health is a lesser miracle, it is limited to a life in this world only. Experiencing a rebirth is a greater miracle, if not the greatest, it extends to eternal life.

Reaction of home owner or landlord: John 1:11-13; Philippians 3:8-10. The landlord did not complain about the damages to his property or demand that they fix his roof? No. He regarded and honoured Christ as a guest and Saviour. He allowed Jesus to teach in his house when others opposed Him. This landlord understands that to have Jesus Christ and lose any or all things this world can offer is gain indeed. We will not lose our joy of salvation or knowing Him, or having our names written in God's book of life removed.

Reaction of Jesus to faithful friends: Matthew 9:2b. Jesus did not comment on the damages to the roof, but only the faith of those who had lowered their friend through it. Jesus commended the faith and loyalty. They firmly believed that Jesus could meet his needs and Jesus gave the paralysed man the extraordinary blessing that all Christians receive by faith, the forgiveness of sin. What sort of friends are you and I?

Reaction of certain Scribes: Matthew 9:3. Blasphemy! That was their thoughts and reaction to the greater miracle (that of forgiving sins), a power which belongs to God only. "This man", their reference to the King of kings and Lord of lords, their creator, is very disrespectful. Were they invited to this meeting or they just heard that Jesus was teaching in the house and came?

Reaction of Jesus to the Scribes: Matthew 9:4, 5. Jesus told them that He saw their hearts and thoughts are evil. Who else can know or see the minds of men but God? No need for disrespectful or belittling remarks, both miracles argue a Divine power. Jesus challenged them with a question, and made His main point by healing the paralysed man visibly to prove that his invisible act of forgiving sins was also effective. Jesus is God.

Reaction of the paralytic man: Matthew 9:7. He obeyed Jesus' instructions and got up, took up his bed, and went to his house a joyful man, saved and healed. You and I need to trust and obey Jesus' instructions whenever He speaks to us.

Reaction of the crowd: Matt 9:8; 1 Kings 18:20-40; Heb. 13:8. They saw the man himself rolled up his mat and walked with his legs home. They came, heard the teachings, saw the miracles, marvelled, and glorified God. Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever.

Conclusion: What is your reaction to Jesus Christ? The choice is yours. What are you willing to do to gain Jesus' salvation and healing?

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

Title: The importance of giving praise to God

Text: Luke 17:15

Praise and thanks cannot be separated, they are important in our relationship with God. Praise allows us to recognise God for who He is. We thank God to acknowledge what He has done for us. Only one leper came back to thank the Lord for his healing. Moses and Miriam thanked God for who He is. Psa. 77:13-15; Isa. 3. When we praise the Lord, we honour Him and declare that He has no equal. **It is our moral response to praise God.** We are required to praise God. Our purpose is to praise God no matter what. **It is acknowledgement and appreciation** that He is our Lord and we are giving Him a tribute of praise with joy. **It is an exceptional response** to the gifts and blessings of the Lord. When we praise God exceptionally then we become an exceptional person, pulling down strongholds. Praise can never be powerless. Praise will lift you up. Praise God always! Praise God and you will enjoy the goodness of God. Praises bring healings, joy and victories.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Dr. A. A. Asubiaro

Date: 4 September 2022

Topic: Get back on your feet and move towards your goal

Text: Proverbs 24:16

Introduction: The Macmillan Dictionary defines fall as ‘to move quickly downwards from a higher position, usually by accident.’ However, the Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines ‘get back’ as ‘to come or go again to a person, place, or condition.’ There are three important messages in this passage:

1. **The probability of the righteous falling (verse 16a).** This section of the verse suggests that it is possible for the righteous to fall. The word ‘seven’ is a reminder for the righteous to be extra careful. The righteous can fall because they are imperfect human beings, and they are also key targets for the devil. The righteous can fall because life is full of ups and downs. Falling, failing, and making mistakes are realities of life that will happen to both the righteous and unrighteous. We all live in a wicked and uncertain world with many terrible things happening every day. There is no guarantee of a perfect and easy life when we follow Jesus Christ and live according to His ways.

2. **The hope of restoration for the righteous (verse 16b).** Resilience is one of the marks of the godly people. The reason why the righteous can get up is because they put their hope and strength in God. The power to rise has been given to them through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When you check through the Bible, most of the heroes and heroines of faith failed, but they got back on their feet. They acknowledged their mistakes and made the necessary corrections. Therefore, children of God must learn to get back up on their feet.

3. **The difference between the righteous and the wicked (verse 16c).** The word ‘but’ that is used in this part of the verse is powerful. The word is used to express the sharp contrast between the righteous and the wicked. One calamity is enough to make the wicked stumble and destroy their ill-gotten wealth. This is a message for the righteous not to think that the wicked will get away with their wickedness without judgement (Psalm 37:7). It is also a reminder for the wicked that their iniquities will not go unpunished forever. Therefore, it is an invitation for the wicked to repent before it will be too late.

Conclusion: It is not the will of God for you to remain in a falling situation. It is God’s will for you to get back on your feet and move towards your goal in life.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 11 September 2022

Topic: Open heaven (Part 1)

Text: Ezekiel 1:1



Introduction: An open heaven is the experience of God's presence being poured out over the lives of individuals, the church, and the nation. Let us examine some of the biblical instances of open heaven and draw important applications for our lives today.

1. **Open heaven as evidence of revelation of mysteries (Ezekiel 1:1, Acts 10:11).** Prophet Ezekiel testified that he experienced open heaven in exile and God revealed to him many mysteries that he did not know. Similarly, apostle Peter experienced open heaven when he saw an object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground (Acts 10:11). You cannot lack for divine instruction, revelations, and mysteries if you are operating under open heaven.

2. **Open heaven as evidence of God's remarkable blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-14).** This passage is a typical example of what can happen in the lives of individuals or nations operating under open heaven. They will experience abundant blessings. The important keyword is blessing.

3. **Open heaven as evidence of deliverance (Psalm 144:5-11).** David knows the significance of open heaven in the aspect of deliverance throughout his lifetime. He knows that the open heaven that he is praying for will impact the natural world (verse 5), scatter all his enemies (verse 6), bring deliverance (verses 7-8, 11), cause him to sing a new song to the Lord (verse 9) and lead to unprecedented victories (verse 10).

4. **Open heaven as evidence of vindication (Acts 7:56).** Stephen was full of God's grace and power. He performed great wonders and signs among the people. Some members of the Synagogue stirred up persecution and arrested him. He used the opportunity to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. God vindicated Stephen when he saw open heaven as he was being stoned to death (Acts 7:56).

5. **Open heaven as evidence of confirmation and God's involvement (Matthew 3:16-17; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22).** Jesus Christ presented himself to be baptised by John the Baptist before the commencement of His earthly ministry. He saw open heaven and the Spirit of God descending as a dove lighting on Him. Then, God the Father spoke from heaven to confirm and validate Jesus before His disciples.

6. **Open heaven as evidence of God's judgement (Genesis 7:11; 19:23-25; Revelation 4:1; 19:11).** God opened the floodgates of heaven to wipe out the unrighteous people living on the surface of the earth during the time of Noah (Genesis 7:11). God also rained down burning sulphur on the city of Sodom and Gomorrah because they refused to repent (Genesis 19:23-25). After the rapture, God will open the heaven to unleash different judgements on the ungodly during the tribulation period (Revelation 4:1).

Conclusion: We can draw some biblical truths from the above instances of open heaven. First, open heaven is God's prerogative and not ours. Second, open heaven is the heritage of believers in Christ. Third, open heaven is conditional.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

Date: 18 September 2022
Topic: Open heaven (Part 2)
Text: Deuteronomy 28:12



Introduction: Open heaven is the manifestation of God's power and glory effortlessly. How can we operate under open heaven? Let us examine six among the many ways by which we can release our open heavens.

1. **Unlocking your open heaven through holiness (Daniel 6:1-5; Hebrews 12:14).** Daniel unlocked his open heaven by walking in holiness. His enemies looked for different ways to get him into trouble, but they couldn't. Hebrews 12:14b confirms that 'without holiness no one will see the Lord.'
2. **Unlocking your open heaven through praise (1 Samuel 16:14-23; Acts 16:16-40).** David was hired to play harp and make music to the Lord whenever king Saul was tormented by evil spirits. Paul and Silas operated under open heaven when they turned their prison cell to a gospel musical concert and revival ground. Their chains fell off as they experienced open heaven.
3. **Unlocking your open heaven through tithes and offering (Malachi 3:10, 2 Samuel 7:1-17; 1 Kings 3:1-15).** God challenged the people to put Him to test and see if He would not open the windows of heaven and pour out abundant blessing until it overflows when they give their tithes and offering (Malachi 3:10). David decided to build a magnificent temple for the Lord, and he experienced open heaven (2 Samuel 7:1-17). Solomon made unprecedented sacrifices to the Lord at Gibeon, and he experienced open heaven (1 Kings 3:1-15).
4. **Unlocking your open heaven through obedience (Deuteronomy 28: 1-14).** The conditional clause in Deuteronomy 28:1 guides all the promises of God in verses 2-14 of that chapter. The blessings will manifest in the lives of the people if they follow God's commandments (cf. Isaiah 1:19).
5. **Unlocking your open heaven through prayer (James 5:13-18).** Elijah was a human being like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. He also prayed for open heaven, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops (James 5:17-18). Christians have more spiritual resources today than Elijah through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ.
6. **Unlocking your open heaven through radical faith (1 Kings 18:16-46; Luke 8:43-48).** Elijah's challenge to the prophets of Baal at mount Carmel was an expression of the power of faith. The woman with the issue of blood unlocked her open heaven with radical faith. She activated her faith in the healing power of Jesus Christ and acted it out (Luke 8:43-48).

Conclusion: Are you experiencing closed heaven in your life, marriage, finances, and ministry? It is possible for you to operate under open heaven again. It is possible for you to bust out and manifest with your open heaven.

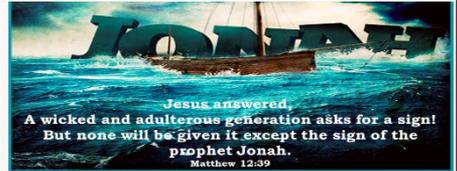
Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 25 September 2022

Title: The sign of the prophet Jonah

Text: Matthew 12:39-41



Introduction: Conversations occur repeatedly throughout history about people demanding signs. Signs are the proof of a prophet sent by God. Moses needed to show the elders of Israel and Pharaoh signs that he was a messenger from God. Gideon wanted signs from God who had appointed him as a Judge in Israel. The scribes and the Pharisees demanded a sign from Jesus after seeing Jesus' healing in their synagogue of a man who had his hand withered and outside another possessed with a devil. Is any other sign or wonder going to convince them?

Rebellion: Matthew 12:39; Romans 3:23

Jesus however, promised them the "sign of the prophet Jonah" Everyone needs salvation, for all have sinned and come short. Jonah was disobedient to God's instructions and was punished for his rebellion. However, Jonah was miraculously delivered from the belly of the fish after three days and three nights.

Resurrection: Matthew 12:40

It would have been extremely difficult for Jonah to survive in the fish's belly full of digestive juices and no oxygen for him to breathe. Jonah had a close to death encounter and was revived by God to preach to Nineveh. The sign of Jonah was not just about Jesus' resurrection only but it would lead to the repentance of Gentile nations. Christians can always point to the success of Christ's church as evidence of the truth of the Gospel. They must not fail to mention the evidence of the empty tomb, reliability of eyewitnesses and historical records when they argue for Jesus Christ's messiahship and His divinity.

Repentance: Matthew 12:40; Jonah 1:17–3:10; Romans 1:1–4

The sign of the prophet Jonah has been fulfilled. Why did the Ninevites repent when Jonah preached to them? Because they knew God spoke through him, that almighty God saved him from drowning and digestion. The people of Nineveh witnessed a man come out of the whale's mouth, delivered alive to the sea shore. He must have drawn a huge crowd of amazed and perplexed onlookers. Jesus Christ's resurrection, which is like Jonah's deliverance from death, also signifies God's vindication of Him and affirms the truth of His words.

Rejection: Luke 16:31; 1 Kings 10:1–13; Matthew 12:41–42

Yet even this miracle will not be enough to make Jesus' hard-hearted enemies believe. Jesus is definitely greater than any prophet and God is wiser than men. Ironically, these Gentiles turned to the true God, but most Israelites and other unbelievers, who have heard or will hear of the greater sign of their Lord's resurrection, will not believe.

Conclusion: The sign of prophet Jonah is salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for those who repent from their sins, believe and accept Him by faith.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni

Date: 2 October 2022

Topic: Living with your spouse with understanding

Text: 1 Peter 3:1-7

Introduction: Apostle Peter was writing to the church then and ultimately the body of Christ throughout the ages about an important recipe for happy marriage. In my view, the keyword in this passage is ‘understanding.’

1. **What is understanding?** The Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines understanding as ‘the knowledge and ability to judge a particular situation’ or ‘a willingness to understand people’s behaviour and forgive them.’ It also means to be sympathetically aware of other people’s feelings; tolerant and forgiving. To be a person of understanding in marriage means to be compassionate, sympathetic, sensitive, considerate, tender, kind-hearted, thoughtful, tolerant, patient, forbearing, lenient, merciful, forgiving, humane, good-natured, approachable, supportive, reassuring, tactful and diplomatic with your spouse.

2. **Becoming a woman of understanding (verses 1-6).** Apostle Peter encouraged the wives to submit to their husbands. He testified that they could win their unbelieving husbands to the Lord through their positive behaviour, purity, and reverence. They should dress moderately and show their beauty through their inner self, unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit. They should follow the examples of the holy women in the Bible who put their hope in God and adorn themselves with virtues. The implication is that a woman will submit to her husband unconditionally if she has understanding.

3. **Becoming a man of understanding (verse 7).** Apostle Peter argues further that the husbands should also learn to live with their wives with understanding to guarantee marital success. They should give honour to their wives as weaker vessels and joint heirs of the grace of life. This is about being considerate and respectful towards your wife. The implication is that failure to do this will hinder their prayers.

Conclusion: God is calling you to live with your spouse with understanding. You should choose to love your spouse unconditionally and show more understanding. You should add value to your relationship if you want to keep the marriage alive. You cannot suddenly find happiness in marriage: it is your responsibility to take it to your marriage relationship.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

HUSBANDS GIVE
UNDERSTANDING
AND HONOUR TO
YOUR WIFE

1 PETER 3:7

WIVES
Your Beauty
SHOULD BE
THAT OF YOUR Inner Self,
THE Unfading Beauty OF A
Gentle & Quiet Spirit,
WHICH IS OF Great Worth
IN God’s Sight.
1 PETER 3:4



Date: 9 October 2022

Topic: Open door

Text: Revelation 3:8a

Introduction: An open door refers to an unmerited opportunity and advantage that God has made available to you through His sovereignty and supremacy. This verse was part of the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the church at Philadelphia in the first century. Let us examine four important information about open door in this verse:

1. **The giver or provider of the open door (Revelation 3:8a).** The first information in this verse is about the one making the open door to open. The phrase 'I have placed' shows that open door is the work of the triune God. It is beyond human power, knowledge, wisdom, effort and understanding. God is the subject doing the action. It is a door that God Himself is opening.

2. **The beneficiary of the open door (Revelation 3:8a).** The second information in this verse is about the one receiving or enjoying the open door. The phrase 'before you' informs us about those who qualify to enjoy the open door. It is for sons and daughters of God. It is a door that God has specifically reserved for you and me. Every born-again child of God has entitlement to this open door.

3. **The nature of the open door (Revelation 3:8a).** The third information in this verse is about the characteristic of the open door. The Bible describes it as a 'door that no one can shut.' There are three things about the nature of this open door: First, God is the source and originator of the door. Second, it is a door that only God can open. Third, it is a door that only God can shut. It is comforting to know that the devil, your enemies, and household wickedness cannot shut the door that God has opened for you.

4. **Knowing what to do with your open door (Revelation 3:8a).** The fourth information in this verse is about how to respond to God's open door. The word 'see or behold' is aorist active imperative in the Greek New Testament. It is a command that God expects us to follow. It is your responsibility to recognise the door. It is your responsibility to wait for God's open door until it opens (Isaiah 40:31). It is your responsibility to walk into the open door by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Conclusion: Jesus Christ is the door (John 10:9). Therefore, I encourage you to accept Him as your Lord and personal Saviour today.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 16 October 2022

Title: The unchangeable high priesthood of Christ Jesus

Text: Hebrews 7:20-28

Introduction: Many first-century Hebrew Christians struggled to grasp the concept of the priesthood of Jesus Christ just like many Christians in our days. They had centred their faith around the Aaronic priesthood and Mosaic Law. Hebrews 7:11–28 shows why the Levitical priesthood had to be replaced for theological reasons and, in great detail, explains that Christ’s priesthood is superior (Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14-15).

The Priesthood of Aaron (Hebrews 5:1-4). The High Priests under the Aaronic priesthood stood between a holy God and a sinful people. The Levitical priesthood requires the offering of various stipulated sacrifices (Leviticus 16:6-20). Every one of the priests under the Levitical priesthood system has to be a direct descendant of Aaron. (Ezra 7:1-5; 2:59-63; Numbers 3:21–26; Deuteronomy 17:8–13; 33:10; Maachi 2:7; 1 Chronicles 6:49; Leviticus 24:9; Hebrews 9:3; 1 Kings 8:6; Exodus 25:22).

Failures of the Aaronic Priesthood: The priesthood was established (Leviticus 8-10), and at the very outset, the two sons of Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, were smitten by God for their irreverence (Leviticus 10). Eli (1 Samuel 1-4), served as priest (1 Samuel 1:9, 24) and as a judge over Israel (1 Samuel 4:18). His sons, Hophni and Phinehas served as priests and were corrupt (1 Samuel 1:3; 2:12, 17, 22-25; 3:11-14). They died by the hands of the Philistines, Eli also paid with his life and the ark of God was captured (1 Samuel 4:11; Jeremiah 7:12) The flaws of the old covenant and its Aaronic priesthood pointed to the need for a new and better covenant, with a better priesthood.

Death prevented the Aaronic priests from continuing. The high priest Jehoiada renewed the people’s dedication to God. The kingdom was turned over to Joash and he sat on his rightful throne (2 Kings 11:17-21). In three separate verses, the Bible records that king Joash did what was right in the sight of the Lord all the days in which Jehoiada the high priest was alive and instructed him (2 Kings 12:2; 2 Chronicles 24:2, 12). Jehoiada the high priest passed away like all his predecessors and was buried (2 Chronicles 24:16). “Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing”, Hebrews 7:23.

The High Priesthood of Christ Jesus: Jesus of Nazareth has a better priesthood, covenant, sanctuary, and sacrifice than that of the Aaronic priesthood which are based on better promises. He is the Apostle and High Priest of our confession (Hebrews 3:1). He is the eternal Son of God (John. 1:1); Creator and Sustainer of all things (Col. 1:16–17); and, unlike an Aaronic priest, Christ has power to bestow eternal life (Jn. 11:25–26). Whereas the Aaronic priesthood eventually ceased, Christ’s appointment as High Priest will last forever (Hebrews 7:17; cf. Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 8:1-2, 6; Hebrews 7:26-27).

Conclusion: The High priesthood of Christ Jesus supersedes that of the Levitical high priest for many reasons. His priesthood is unchanging and eternal. It is paramount we understand that Christ Jesus is the *only* Mediator between God and men.

Guest Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori



Date: 23 October 2022

Title: That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith

Text: Ephesians 3:17

Introduction: Apostle Paul's prayer in Ephesians 3 was entirely spiritual. He was more concerned about what will make the believers in Ephesus ready for eternity with the Lord. In verse 17, he prayed for these believers to be filled with the love of God that manifests itself in the love for God and for others. How can we reach the level that God desires for us? We must allow Christ to dwell in our hearts by faith and be rooted and grounded in love. In this verse, Apostle Paul desired three things for believers in Christ.

1. **Believers sanctification (verse 17a).** The word “dwell” means “to settle down; to be at home.” Is Christ at home in your heart? This verse is not about salvation, but it is about sanctification. The Lord dwells in our hearts by faith, but He is not at home in our hearts until we are under the control of the Spirit. When the Spirit of God controls us, He cleans up our lives creating a comfortable home for the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. **Believers maturity (verse 17b).** We must be rooted and secure in our reliance on love. The evidence that any life has been brought under the control of the Spirit of God is the presence of genuine love. Paul is simply reminding us that love for the Lord and for others is central to our existence as believers. A lack of love in any believer's life is always the result of a disobedient, unyielded spirit. The believer who claims to love God, but who hates his brother is a liar (1 John 4:20-21), Love is meant to keep the believers grounded, staying in place with Christ and growing us to maturity (Colossians 2:7).

3. **Believers prayer life.** Apostle Paul prayed for the spiritual lives of his beloved believers in Ephesians 3:14-19 and in Romans 15:30-32 he requested prayers for himself. We must do the same and pray that the Lord will do whatever it takes to make us holy. We must pray for strength from the Spirit of God in the inner man; strength in the soul; the strength of faith, to serve God, and to do our duty. We must also ask for prayers from the brethren.

Today, accept and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour. This is the beginning of the work of Christ in your heart. When you submit to the Word of God and live in righteousness, holiness and obedience you allow Christ to work in you. If the law of Christ is written in your heart and the love of Christ be shed abroad there then Christ dwells there and you will enjoy the fulness of God.

Conclusion: Make room for Christ, that He may dwell in your heart richly by faith. God wants His people to be rooted in His love and built up through loving others and by being loved by others. That is Paul's prayer for the church then, and it is still the Lord's will for the church today.

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni



So that Christ may
dwell in your hearts
through faith - that
you, being rooted &
grounded
in love.
Ephesians 3:17

Date: 30 October 2022

Title: The Great Physician's Prescription for Eternal life

Text: Matthew 19:16-22

Introduction: Jesus, the Great Physician can heal the Body, Mind, Soul and Heart. When Jesus came to Judaea, the multitudes followed Him to be healed or witness miracles. The Pharisees came to tempt and debate Jesus on marriages and healing, God's concept or Moses' permission. Parents brought little children to Jesus for vaccination prayers and blessings. A man came to Jesus, the Great Physician to ask what good thing he should do to have eternal life.

The man's symptoms: Matthew 19:16

The man's sickness was of the heart, he had strong cravings for eternal life just like people will crave for drug. His understanding is that life in this world is not the only life, his inner mind pointed him to an afterlife. The man's thinking was that eternal life could be obtained by good works. So he came to the Good Master, the Great Physician.

The Great Physician's confirmation: Matthew 19:17; Deuteronomy 6:24, 25

Jesus confirmed that no one, man or woman is good except God only. Jesus referring to God the Father is also pointing to Himself as being good. Jesus' response does not present problems for believing in the Trinity. Jesus then confirmed God's promise of justification (eternal life) to the doers or keepers of all the Mosaic commandments and laws.

The Great Physician's Diagnosis: Matthew 19:17-20; James 2:10

The man's next question "which one" simply suggests that he had not kept all of the commandments. Then, a number of the commandments written in scripture are listed by Jesus. The man boldly claims to have kept these commandments from his youth, yet he knew he lacked the assurance of salvation. He was deficient in heavenly vitamins and lacking in spiritual nutrients. Self-righteousness is not a passport to heaven.

The Great Physician's Prescription: Matthew 19:21; Colossians 3:2

Jesus was truly interested in this young man's salvation just as He is for everyone He created. The prescription was twofold. This man's desires needed to change away from earthly things into eternal things. The Great Physician prescribed a change in the location of his treasure, linked to his heart from this world to heaven. Jesus also prescribed that he come and follow Him to receive salvation by grace, and eternal life.

Conclusion: The Great Physician, Jesus Christ gave the correct prescription but the man did not take it so he was not cured of his sickness. He missed the opportunity to obtain eternal life.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 6 November 2022

Topic: God can fix what is broken in your life

Text: Jeremiah 18:1-6

Introduction: This passage reminds us that God is the potter, and we are the clay. God specialises in putting broken lives together to make them attractive again. God can break us down, melt us, remould, and fill us for His glory. Let us examine some of the areas where God can help fix your broken pieces:

1. **God can fix your broken life of sin (John 3:1-15, John 4:1-42).** Nicodemus was one of the Jewish leaders and a pharisee in the first century, yet he was living a life of sin. He was religious, but he remained unspiritual. He brought his broken pieces to Jesus. Moreover, the Samaritan woman met Jesus by the well, and her broken life was fixed (John 4:1-42).

2. **God can fix your broken marriage (1 Samuel 25:1-42).** Abigail was a battered woman. She experienced hell on earth in the house of Laban. She probably stayed in that marriage hoping to fix Laban. Only God can fix your marriage by transforming your spouse.

3. **God can fix your broken health (Luke 8:43-48).** The woman with the issue of blood was broken physically and emotionally. She brought her broken pieces to Jesus, and He fixed it. What are the prognosis and diagnosis that doctors have given concerning your health?

4. **God can fix your broken children (Luke 15:11-32).** God fixed the prodigal son in the Bible without any evangelist preaching to him or a counsellor giving him counsel. God fixed him when he came to his senses.

5. **God can fix your broken finances (2 Kings 4:1-8).** One of the wives of the sons of the prophets came to prophet Elisha after the death of her husband to explain her situation. Her husband served the Lord faithfully, but he was in debt. The creditor sent her a message that he is coming to take her two sons to be his slaves. The God of Elisha fixed her broken finances.

6. **God can fix your broken career (Luke 5:1-11; 1 Samuel 17:1-51).** Peter and his friends went out one evening for fishing with lots of expectations, but they caught nothing. They were devastated until Jesus stepped into their situation and fixed it. Similarly, Goliath threatened the host of Israel for forty days. The military careers of king Saul and his generals were on the line. Yahweh raised young David to step into the situation and fixed it.

7. **God can fix your broken life of pain (1 Chronicles 4:9-10).** The Bible confirmed that it was Jabez's mother who gave him the name because she had a difficult birth. Jabez knew that God can fix the pain in his life. He called on the name of the Lord, and it was fixed.

Conclusion: Just bring your broken pieces to Jesus, He will put them together and make something great out of the situation. Our God is the specialist in making something great out of what is broken.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare

*...as the clay is in the potter's hand,
so are ye in mine...
Jeremiah 18:6*

Date: 13 November 2022

Topic: Sustaining Growth and Development of God's Knowledge in the Kingdom

Text: Acts 2:42-47

Introduction: There is need for us to go back to the early church to see how they sustained growth and development of God's knowledge at the beginning. Let us examine eight important steps in this passage:

1. **Through sound biblical teaching (Acts 2:42a).** The early church was built and sustained with sound biblical doctrine. This includes questioning and apologetics. Potential theological confusions were discussed and adequately addressed in the early church.

2. **Through planning (Acts 2:42b & c).** There was evidenced of a well worked out programme in the early church. The early Christians planned fellowshiping, breaking bread, and praying together.

3. **Through prayer (Acts 2:42c).** Prayer helps us to seek God's empowerment and intervention over our plans. It helps our knowledge of God to increase.

4. **Through humility (Acts 2:43, 47a).** It is important to note that God worked many signs and wonders through the apostles, yet they remained humbled. They returned all the glory and praise to God.

5. **Through unity (Acts 2:44 & 46a).** There was evidence of cultural intelligence and sensitivity in the early church. They were diverse people from different background, yet there was unity in their diversity. They continued to work and serve together with one mind.

6. **Through passion and commitment (Acts 2:45-46).** The people used their initiatives and made decisions for the common good of the church. The apostles embraced good ideas from the people and allowed for flexibility without forcing anyone.

7. **Through good leadership (Acts 2:42-47).** It is possible to read the entire passage with the lenses of good leadership. All the things mentioned were accomplished because of the good leadership structure in the early church.

8. **Through mentoring the next generation (Acts 2:42-47).** The children in the early church saw the activities of the adults and followed in their steps. Some of them who witnessed and participated in the activities listed in this passage eventually became church leaders after some years. The growth of the early church was sustained because there was succession plan in place.

Conclusion (Acts 2:47b): The body of Christ is under the siege of persecution, satanic attack, carnality, and false doctrines etc. We need revival and reawakening. We need the return of God's power in the church like the apostolic experience in the first century. We need to rediscover the path to spiritual maturity.

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 20 November 2022

Topic: Unto Horeb the mount of God

Text: 1 Kings 19: 4-8

Introduction: The mount of God is another name for Mount Horeb. It is also known as Mount Sinai, because it is in the wilderness of Sinai. Mount Horeb or Sinai is where the Israelites entered into a covenant with God after escaping from bondage in Egypt. Also the Ten Commandments and the laws, rules, and instructions were received by them before they continued on their 40 years' journey through the desert into the Promised Land (Exodus 33:6; Malachi 4:4). Moses was on that mountain with God for 40 days and 40 nights. And Elijah went forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mount of God.

The Lord's Judgement: 1 Kings 19:1; Romans 11:22; Exodus 14:21

This was the time of severe judgment by God on Israel for their idolatry. God as punishment can send war, starvation, wild animals, and deadly disease against nations. God called Elijah to announce mercy and salvation. But before salvation came, Elijah stood up against the false prophets and issued the challenge - God or Baal. The mercy and salvation of the Lord came upon the Israelites who repented and proclaimed that Yahweh is God. The wrath of God brought judgement on the prophets of Baal and the groves, and they all perished.

The queen's threats: 1 Kings 19:2; 2 Peter 2:9

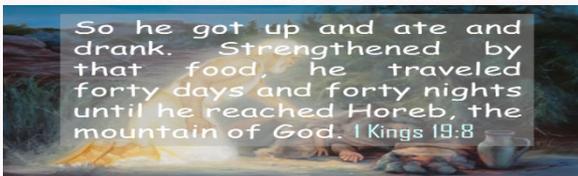
King Ahab testified to what God had done through His prophet. However, carnal hearts are hardened and enraged against God, the miracles of the past and at mount Carmel made no improvement in Jezebel's life. Believers battling demonic forces should not be ignorant of the enemies' tactics. Jezebel's counterattack was focused on just one person, the evil Queen wanted the head of the prophet. This proves that miracles alone will not turn the ungodly or wicked to God.

The Prophet's Flight: 1 Kings 19:3

Elijah had left his servant at Beer Sheba and ran a day's journey into the wilderness of Sinai. An angel woke him up under the Juniper tree and nourished him. Elijah was not fully aware of the meaning of his quest. It was such a great fear for his life and hurry, he made no provisions for the journey just like the Israelites left Egypt on the Passover night. He wished to die by God's gracious hand, not Jezebel's. Elijah's flight at this time could have been his impression of God's will because of the previous incident. God was not angry or impatient with Elijah but sent encouragement and food to him, not once but twice through His angel.

Conclusion: Elijah made the journey to Horeb, God's mount and was given a commission as he was still God's Prophet. On the appointed mount, Jesus Christ getting ready to ascend to heaven, instructed His apostles to tell others about the good news - God's salvation plan by grace through faith in Him.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 27 November 2022

Topic: The dimensions of the Lord's promises (Part 1)

Text: Genesis 15:1-6

Introduction: What is a Promise? An agreement that you are going to do something you specified. What is it that the Lord has promised you? Be assured, God's promise is Yes and Amen.

1. **The What.** How can you find out what God has promised you? Jesus is the guarantee and confirmation of God's promises.

(A) **Through Revelation** – Dreams and Visions (Genesis 12, 15, 17). The word of God came to Abram (Genesis 15:1) through a vision. Dreams happens when you sleep and visions happens when you are awake. Abraham heard God's audible voice (Genesis 17). Can you hear God when He speaks to you? It is essential to open our hearts to receive from God. Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10).

(B) **Through His Word** – John 1:1; Isaiah 41:10; Romans 8:28; Philipppians 4:19. When there is a lack God will provide beyond our imaginations. The feeding of the five thousand, there was a lack and a surplus (Matthew 14:13-21). Write the promise of God down when He has given it to you. The word of God is a lamp (Psalm 119:105).

(C) **Through enquiring** – God will reveal His promise to you when you enquire of Him (Genesis 15:2). Rebekah also enquired of the Lord when she was not sure (Genesis 25:22). Abram received from the Lord when he enquired concerning 'the what' that God has promised. Abraham wanted one but God gave him nations (Genesis 17:4-7). God will do it for you (Jeremiah 29:11).

2. **The When.** Genesis 15:3-4. When will the promise happen? The process of waiting is not good but we have to wait on God. We should not look for quick fixes and miss the blessings of God. Allow God to build your faith while you wait on Him (Genesis 17:17-18). Abraham waited because God promised.

Conclusion: Genesis 21:1-2. After so much waiting, God fulfilled His word concerning Abraham and Sarah. In the book of Joshua, God fulfilled His promises concerning Israel. God will do that which He has promised concerning you, wait patiently on Him. God exalts His Name and Word at all times.

Preacher: Sister Esther Bakare



Date: 4 December 2022

Topic: Singing and making melody to the Lord

Text: Ephesians 5:19

Introduction: Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus in the first century about how they can enter the presence of God through praise and worship. The following four strategies will also help us in our contemporary praise and worship.

1. **Address one another in psalms (verse 19a).** Paul recommended the use of biblical Psalms. The Psalms provide stimulus for praise and prayerful reflection. They offer us different ways to rejoice in prayer, bow in worship, and to exalt God for all His blessings to us.

2. **Embrace hymns and spiritual songs (verse 19b).** Paul also recommended embracing hymns and spiritual songs. The singing of hymns in worship started in the Old Testament. David sang lots of hymns in his lifetime. Jesus and His disciples sang hymns after the last supper. This practice continued in the New Testament church. Spiritual songs are not just 'feeling songs, they are musical creations specifically designed to express the truth of God' according to Dan Hayden.

3. **Sing and make melody to the Lord (verse 19c).** Paul admonished the Christians to sing and make melody to the Lord. Dan Hayden notes that the word for 'making melody' is a verb form of the word for 'psalm.' Therefore, the literal translation is 'singing and psalming in your heart to the Lord.' Paul invited the early Christians and ultimately all Christians to put the words of Scripture to music. Melody is simply a beautiful way of expressing the words of Scripture in a musical way.

4. **Engage in the art of worship wholeheartedly (verse 19d).** Apostle Paul concluded his admonition on singing and making melody to the Lord with an instruction that it should be done wholeheartedly to expect the right result. Tim Hughes sums it up when he says, 'songs of worship arise from a life of worship.' True worship is a matter of the heart and genuine devotion to the triune God.

Conclusion: God expects us to sing and make melody to Him without ceasing. It is an important aspect of our service before the Lord. As Ralph Mahoney notes, 'whenever His people gather and worship Him, God promises He will make His presence known in their midst. On the other hand, where God's people consistently neglect true spiritual worship, His manifest presence is rarely experienced.'

Preacher: Senior Pastor – Rev. Dr. Gideon O. Bakare

Topic: Choose the good part

Text: Luke 10:38-42

Introduction: What is that good part that Mary has chosen? Have we chosen the good part? Are we distracted like Martha? Are we in an economic situation or worried about everything going around in the world? We should not be worried and distracted by things that are limited in time. If these things are not eternal why are we so worried?

God's love is beyond measure. He gave us His best, His agape love, the gift of Jesus Christ and Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit that is living within us. We must love God every day and worship Him for who He is and not only when we need something. We must not love the things of the world. **We have failed to;** (i) love God and seek time with Him. Loving God will be expressed in your giving and the way you worship Him. (ii) be thankful because of the standard placed before us by the devil. We must not look at the numbers but focus on winning souls for the Lord, Romans 14:17.

(iii) have joy and peace to fully operate in the kingdom of God. 1 Peter 5:7-9; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19.

Conclusion: Examine yourself. Are you busy for God or for the devil? Count your blessings and be grateful to God for all His blessings in your life.

Preacher: Dr. Stephen Adekunle

Date: 11 December 2022

Topic: The love that came down at Christmas

Text: John 3:16

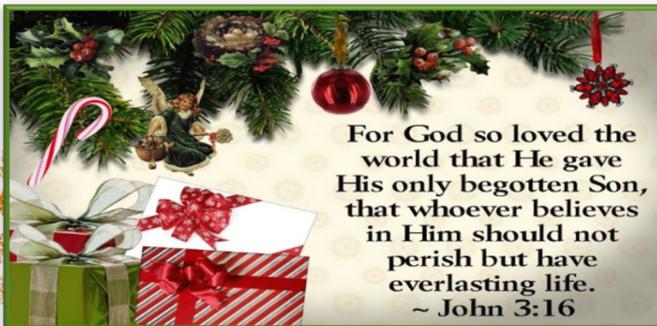


Introduction: One of the important lessons that we can learn from the story of Christmas is God's love. Let us examine four things about the love of God in this verse:

1. **The love of God is inclusive (verse 16a).** The key phrase here is 'the world. The love of God at Christmas was not exclusive or reserved for specific people. It was made available for the benefit of everyone. A relentless love that will not give up on us. This is the time to ponder on the love of God towards us.
2. **The love of God is expressive (verse 16b).** The key phrase here is 'He gave.' The love of God was expressed through the gift of His only begotten son to us. This was the ultimate expression of God's love. God released His son to die so that we can be saved. If God can express His love towards us, we also have a responsibility to express it to others.
3. **Rejecting the love of God is dangerous (verse 16c).** The word 'perish' is significant here. The implication of this part of the verse is that the love of God can be declined or rejected. Rejecting the love of God is dangerous. It can lead to unfulfilled life, put you under satanic bondage, and land you in hell fire.
4. **Accepting the love of God is a blessing (verse 16d).** The key phrase here is 'eternal life.' Eternal life is the highest blessing that anyone can ever receive from God. It is not in God's character to give you a gift that you don't have the capacity to receive. God the Father gave us the gift of Jesus Christ at the first Christmas so that we can receive Him.

Conclusion: This is the time for us to reflect deeply on the love of God. Corrie Ten Boom says, 'Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life.'

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



Date: 18 December 2022

Topic: God with us is the Christmas promise

Text: Matthew 1:18-25



Introduction: God is with us is a promise. It is the Christmas promise, the promise of salvation, healing, deliverance, provision, success, blessings, goodness and abundant mercies as when we have God with us and nothing can be against us. When we accept Christ into our lives, we become saved, empowered to be the children of God, and nothing, not even death, can separate us from God and His love - Romans 8:38-39. The great people of faith have always claimed that promise of salvation. There are two things we must take note of, God's physical presence and His spiritual presence.

God's spiritual presence and salvation.

Moses and the Israelites caught between Pharaoh and the Red Sea in a seemingly hopeless situation believed that God was with them. God opened a way Exodus 33:14; 14:15.

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego went into the fiery furnace bound into a hopeless situation but they trusted God to be with them and He was. Isaiah 43:2; Daniel 3:8-25. The shepherd boy David stood before giant Goliath. David believed that God was with him and it made all the difference. 1 Samuel 17. Daniel in the lions' den. How could one person survive in a den of flesh eating lions? But Daniel did because God was with him to the amazement and astonishment of Darius the King and others Daniel 6:21. Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. A miraculous testimony of survival that defiles all human wisdom and understanding. God was with him in the belly of the fish and in the depths of the sea. Jonah 2:1.

For God's physical presence, it is still Emmanuel, God with us. Matthew reached back into the Old Testament when God first spoke the promise of Emmanuel to ancient Judah's king Ahaz. God's promise of His physical presence is precisely what this classic passage in the first chapter of Matthew does for us. It brings us to the real meaning of Christmas, the most magnificent truth in the entire Bible, Our Lord's greatest promise, the reason we celebrate Christmas. When Lazarus the brother of Mary and Martha was sick, his sisters could reach out to Jesus for His physical presence and attendance to heal Lazarus. Jesus did.

God is with us spiritually and physically to save His people and usher in a new kingdom. He came as the mediator between God and man, as our Redeemer, Saviour, Lord and Friend. He is spiritually and physically available. God came to us, physically when Christ came to earth, quite literally, God with us.

Conclusion: That which we have seen and heard declare we to you, that you also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Preacher: Resident Pastor - Rev. A. O. Oni



Date: 25 December 2022

Topic: Christmas is about soul winning

Text: John 3:16



Introduction: Soul winning is about preaching and teaching the undiluted word of God to people around us with the aim to win them for Christ. It is about populating the kingdom of God and depopulating the kingdom of Satan. It also involves sharing our salvation experience with unbelievers and giving them the opportunity to give their lives to Christ. Soul winning is important because it is the heartbeat of God. Let us look at this verse with the lenses of soul winning. It tells us three things about the heart of a soul winner, and these should be our point of reflection this Christmas.

1. **The love of a soul winner (verse 16a).** There was no hope for humanity, but God bestowed His love towards us during the first Christmas. The love of a soul winner will not make him or her to rest until the people hear the gospel. Do you love the unlovable, broken-hearted, godless, and messed up people around you? This is what Christmas is all about. It gives us the opportunity to reach out to others with the love of God. The Great Commission is a command that we must follow. It is not something we can leave into the hands of professional missionaries and pastors. It is an expression of our love to others.

2. **The sacrifice of a soul winner (verse 16b).** To sacrifice means to give up (something valued) for the sake of other considerations. What God did during the first Christmas was a huge sacrifice. He gave what was most precious to Him to us. We are also called to sacrifice something for the salvation of others. The implication is that God expects all of us to be soul winners. Pat Morley says, 'if the Great Commission is true, our plans are not too big; they are too small.' This is the time to be ambitious for the Lord about the souls of those who are perishing. I agree with Carl Henry that 'the gospel is only good news if it gets there in time.' Do not wait until it is too late before you share the gospel (Luke 15:7 & 10).

3. **The concern of a soul winner (verse 16c-d).** God was concerned about where we will spend eternity. God made a provision of the only way for us to get to eternity. This was the reason behind the first Christmas. Are you concerned about where your friends, neighbours, co-workers, fellow students, and family members will spend eternity? Christmas gives us the opportunity to receive the gift of eternity that God has made available. It also helps us to show the way of salvation to others.

Conclusion: The main point of this message is that your Christmas celebration is not complete without soul winning. Christmas reminds us about our own redemption. It should also remind us about the redemption of others. God the Father planned the work of soul winning. God the Son came down to execute it. God the Holy Spirit continues to do the work of soul winning in the world today through the church. We must be soul winners if we are true sons and daughters of God.

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare



2022 Crossover Watchnight Service

Date: 31 December 2022

Topic: My season of walking in righteousness

Text: Matthew 5:6

Introduction: The Sermon on the Mount had a significant impact on the early Christians, it should also have impact on our lives too. Most biblical scholars agree that the Sermon on the Mount lays out for the disciples and potential disciples of Christ ethical principles for daily living. There are two important pieces of information about walking in righteousness in this verse:

Information 1. Walking in righteousness is an investment (verse 6a). The implication is that you are making a spiritual investment whenever you seek after righteousness. There are two things in this part of the verse. First is to hunger for righteousness. Second is to thirst after righteousness. These require intentional efforts. The passion expressed here is real, natural, intense, and painful. The audience of Jesus at that time understood what it means to be hungry and thirsty. But they found it hard to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Information 2. Walking in righteousness has a positive outcome (verse 6b). This second part of the verse is about spiritual satisfaction. Jesus gave the assurance that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled. They shall be so satisfied as they keep longing for more. There is a positive outcome for walking in righteousness. You will be satisfied. To be satisfied means to be pleased, happy, contented, proud, triumphant, fulfilled, and gratified. It also means to have more than enough. The implication is that there is a spiritual satisfaction that comes after craving for God.

Conclusion: Can you reflect on walking in righteousness as a spiritual investment? Can you imagine the positive outcomes that will come into your life and family if you chose to walk in righteousness?

Preacher: Senior Pastor - Rev. Dr. G. O. Bakare





Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC)

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Passcode: 451530



Night of Wonders Prayer Meeting
Zoom Meeting ID: 939 8822 4578
Passcode: 617026
Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month
7pm - 8pm

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