



The Cross

Cross Street A.M.E Zion Church



"A Church Where Everybody is Somebody and Christ is Lord of ALL"

MAY / JUNE 2019

Volume 23 Issue 03



The Only Doorway

JESUS IS THE DOOR ...

Jesus said, in John 10:9 — "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture."

no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." *John 14:6*

JESUS IS THE DOOR ... JESUS IS THE WAY ... JESUS IS THE ONLY DOORWAY TO HEAVEN.

JESUS IS THE WAY ...

"I am the way, the truth, and the life:

(Doorway on page 10)

Sunday, June 9
10:00 am

Graduation Convocation & Pentecost Sunday

Sunday, June 16
07:45 am

Morning Worship & Father's Day Service

June 12 - 16
10:00 am

New England Annual Conference

You Decide

Here are a series of events that happened to me in succession over a period of four weeks, just before Easter, this year of our Lord, 2019. I have my own idea and conception of what is going on. But, rather than impose my interpretation on the reader, I am going to narrate the events as best as I can and let each person make his or her own mind as to what it is that was happening.

Was this a miracle, a

(You Decide on page 12)

The Master Is Coming

They said: "The Master is coming To honor the town today, And none can tell at whose house or home the Master will choose to stay." And I thought while my heart bear wildly, what if He should come to mine? How would I strive to entertain And honor the Guest Divine?

And straight I turned to toiling, To make my home more neat;

(Master on page 13)

Our Service of Worship

Towards An Understanding Of The Order Of Worship

WORSHIP

Our Service Of Worship: Sunday morning worship in our church represents another design in the human search for God. The movement of our worship is as altar stairs ascending to the living presence. Not content to remain in

(Worship page 13)



Visit our Facebook page

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From The Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

What a marvelous blessing to have celebrated Church Anniversary on April 28, 2019.

It's amazing to think about, but it was 196 years ago that a small faithful group of people gathered together with the desire to organize a church to have an impact on their community. The Church was first known as the Freedom Church. The Church had a heart for justice and equality for all people.

With any great work, there will always be some level of opposition, especially when it comes to the work of God! We may never know the struggles it took to get this mission off the ground, but one thing we do know; it DID indeed get off the ground and continues to have an impact to this day on our community, and yes, even globally as we serve and generously give for the good of others.

As we look back over the years, we must take pause and be thankful to the Lord who has blessed us with His presence year in, and year out. No, the road hasn't always been easy, but I know you would agree with me that the good times far outnumber the difficult times!

Psalms 100:4-5 (KJV) 4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, bless his name. 5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

We trust you have a heart of thanksgiving to the Lord as you enter into this place of Worship! The Bible lets us know that truly God inhabits the praises of His people, and as our Heavenly Father, He loves to hear His children's voices rise as one voice of thanks to him.

We cannot lose our passion for the future, and we believe one of the ways to be sure that doesn't happen is to take some time to appreciate those who paid a high price to have what we do today. The Church is taking time in Remembering the Past, Celebrating our Present, & Securing our Future by honoring legacy families of the Historic Cross Street Church. The Cross on every 4th Sunday of the month honor legacy families. The Families honored Weston/Pope, Turner/Hilton, and Battle/Robinson. We will honor in the month of May Legacy families Aiken and Riddick/McArthur. And in the Month of June we will honor Hunter and Vickers/Chisholm.

We continue the celebration in the Month of May and we want to encourage each and every one who calls this your home church to join us! Also, why not take time to invite friends and family who at one time attended here, yet may be elsewhere, to join us in the celebration.

Church Anniversary Blessings,

Pastor Moses L. Harvill

Let's Get Radical

This is my church. It is composed of people just like me. It will be friendly if I am. It will do great work if I work. It will make generous gifts to many causes if I am generous. It will bring others into its fellowship if I bring them.

Its seats will be filled if I fill them. It will be a church of loyalty and love, of faith and service.

If I who make it what it is, am filled with these,

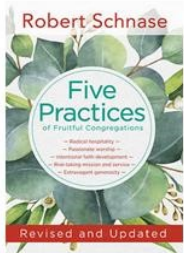
Therefore, with God's help, I dedicate myself to the task of being all these things I want my church to be.

RESET 2018 - 2019 CONFERENCE YEAR

Behold, I will do a new thing .. Isaiah 43:19

1. To Refresh
2. To Restore
3. To Start Anew

Pastor requesting all members to “Join in the RESET” by reading this book and be ready to discuss in September.



Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

By: Robert C. Schnase

People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations.

COUNT ME IN FOR THE RESET!



Note: You can order the book from the Cross Street church website: crossstreetamezion.org in the virtual Bookstore (Cokesbury).

The fruit of the Spirit abides in us and it is up to us to cultivate it so that we may experience the blessing and the fullness of the Spirit. God is the husbandman...”He prunes, nurtures, waters and protects His own. The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit will energize and control every faculty of our nature when our will joins the will of God. Then the “beauty of the Lord will be upon us” (Psalm 90:17) and “we shall bring forth fruit unto God” (Romans 7:4).”

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: LOVE

One definition for Love can be found in 1 Corinthians 13. Read this chapter every day for a deeper understanding. Other scriptures are found in John 3:16; Romans 5:5-8; Jeremiah 31:3; Ephesians 4:2, 3; Romans 12:9, 10, to name a few.

“If I had the gift of being able to speak in other languages without learning them, and could speak in every language there is in all of heaven and in earth, but didn’t love others, I would only be making noise. If I had the gift of prophecy and knew all about what is going to happen in the future, knew everything about everything, but didn’t love others, what good would it do? Even if I had the gift of faith so that I could speak to a mountain and make it move, I would still be worth nothing at all without love. If I gave everything I have to the poor people, and if I were burned alive for preaching the Gospel but didn’t love others, it would be of no value whatever. Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him and always stand your ground in defending him. All special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever. There are three things that remain faith, hope, and love and the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13) The Living Bible.

Some signs that will help you recognize LOVE in action and will help you begin to cultivate the Fruit of LOVE in yourself: showing concern for others, obeying God’s commandments, saving kind words, helping someone with their homework, obeying parents, being patient, being loyal to a friend or to your faith not irritated easily, not envious, not boastful, reading to a small child, visiting the convalescent homes, visiting the sick and shut-ins, sending cards to the sick and shut-ins, hello by serving meals, forgiving someone, doing good deeds, encouraging others, helping an elderly person, being unselfish and sharing with others, being happy when the truth is revealed, letting others get the praise, not rude, not jealous, not proud, reading to an elderly person, visiting the prisons, calling the sick and shut-ins, going on errands cheerfully, helping someone understand God’s word. The list can go on. Use your own good judgment and the words found in scriptures to help you identify other deeds of LOVE.

Catch someone showing LOVE this month and let someone catch you being LOVING!!!!

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT: FAITH

Faith: To believe, trust, or hope. **Faith** is an attitude whereby a man abandons all reliance in his own efforts to obtain salvation. It is complete trust in God, of reliance on Him alone for all that salvation means Fidelity. **Faith** is concerned with facts. Holy **faith** must be profitable. In the Book of James he tells us the devils believe “that there is one God”, but this **faith** does not profit them. True **faith** has a firm foundation and that foundation is God. It is not a passing phase, it is a continuing attitude. **Faith** is continuous with a past act of belief. (Bible Dictionary) **faith** manifests itself in being a trustworthy servant.

How do we cultivate the fruit of faith?

- “So then **Faith** cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” (Romans 10:17)
- When we determine to obey God’s word, we shall be **faithful** in our actions.
- We believe the Gospel and allow it to demonstrate its power through our **faithfulness**
- Prayer and fasting

LOOK FOR PERSON WHO —

- Is a child of God
- Speaks the truth in his heart
- Perseveres even in the midst of trouble
- Whose belief is not shaken even when under persecution
- Is attached to honesty
- Will not sacrifice **faith** even if it interferes with his own pleasures and hinders personal advancement
- Believes and obeys the word of God
- Is steadfast, unmovable in the things of God
- Dependable
- Has spiritual sight

Warning

Be aware of the enemies of faith – infidelity and half-heartedness.

Additional Scripture:

Matthew 17:20, Hebrews 11, Romans 3:27, Roman 4:5, Galatians 2:20, 1 Corinthians 4:2



Lord Hear Our Prayers

Spiritual Growth

Key Scripture: *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby” (1 Peter 2:2)*

Key Thought: God’s Word is food for growth.

Prayer: Thank you, Father, for showing me that as I desire and drink the sincere milk of your Word I will grow spiritually¹. All Scripture has been given by your inspiration², and I want to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth³. I will study your Word so that I will never need to be ashamed, because I will know how to rightly divide your Word of truth⁴.

As I walk in the light of your Word⁵, Father, I will meditate upon your precepts, and give myself totally to them⁶. Speaking the truth in love, I will grow up into Christ in all things⁷. Father, I deeply desire to fully know the love of Christ, which surpasses knowledge, so that I would be filled with all your fullness⁸.

I rejoice, O Lord, in the promise of your Word that tells me that I will flourish like the palm tree, and grow like a cedar in Lebanon⁹. My delight, dear Father, is in your Word, and in your Word I will meditate day and night. You assure me that this will cause me to be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, and whatever I do shall prosper¹⁰.

Thank you, Father, for helping me to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be glory forevermore¹¹.

References: (1) 1 Peter 2:2; (2) 2 Timothy 3:16; (3) Matthew 4:4; (4) 2 Timothy 2:15; (5) Psalms 119:105; (6) 1 Timothy 4:15; (7) Ephesians 4:15; (8) Ephesians 3:19; (9) Psalms 92:12-13; (10) Psalms 1:2-3; (11) 2 Peter 3:18.

The Salvation of a Loved One

Key Scripture: *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).*

Key Thought: God wants everyone to receive eternal life. (See John 3:16.)

Prayer: Dear God, thank you for all your promises. Your Word assures me that you are not willing for anyone to perish, because you want everyone to come to repentance.¹ I claim this promise now in behalf of my loved one: _____ . Draw him/her to yourself through the power of your Holy Spirit.²

Give _____ a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of you, so that the eyes of his/her understanding will be enlightened, and he/she will know the hope to which you have called him/her.³

Help _____ to see his/her need for repentance. You are near, Lord, to all who have a broken heart, and you save those who have a contrite spirit.⁴ Bring brokenness to _____ so that he/she will see his / her need for you.

Thank you for your promise, Father, that whosoever will call upon your name shall be saved.⁵ So work in my loved one's life that he/she will want to call upon your name.⁶ Right now, Father, on the authority of your Word,⁷ in the name of Jesus,⁸ and by the precious blood of Christ,⁹ I pray that every plan and strategy of the enemy in _____'s life be stopped and rendered of no effect. Let every plan of the powers of darkness against _____'s life fail.¹⁰

Send believers who will proclaim the gospel to _____ in the power of your Holy Spirit,¹¹ so that his/her eyes will be opened and that he/she will turn from darkness to light.¹²

Thank you for giving him/her eternal life with you, Father.

References: (1) 2 Peter 3:9; (2) 1 Corinthians 12:3; (3) Ephesians 1:17-18; (4) Psalms 34:18; (5) Acts 2:21; (6) Romans 10:13; (7) Isaiah 55:11; (8) Philippians 2:10; (9) 1 Peter 1:19-21; (10) Ephesians 6:12; (11) Acts 1:8; (12) Acts 26:18.

THE ARMOR OF GOD

EPHESIANS 6:10-18
 "... Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power
 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your
 stand against the devil's schemes." v. 10, 11

The Shield of Faith (Eph. 6:16)
 Faith is being sure that God will keep His promises. Faith in God protects you when you are tempted to doubt.

Feet Prepared with the Gospel of Peace (Eph. 6:15)
 The Gospel of Peace is being right with God and being contented in troubled times. Jesus said peacemakers were blessed.

The Helmet of Salvation (Eph. 6:17)
 Put on the Helmet of Salvation by believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose again.

The Breastplate of Righteousness (Eph. 6:14)
 Righteousness is being honest, good, humble, and fair to others. It means standing up for weaker people.

The Belt of Truth (Eph. 6:14)
 Truth keeps us from giving in to the world's beliefs. Compare your beliefs and actions to the truth of the Word of God.

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17)
 which is the Word of God. God's Word is our offensive weapon. When we tell others what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit helps people see their bad thoughts and actions, and makes them want to be forgiven.

Ephesians 6:10-20 (New King James Version)

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, ^[a] against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; 18 praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— 19 and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Read the BIBLE in ONE Year

MAY

1 2 Chronicles 26-29
 2 2 Chronicles 30-32
 3 2 Chronicles 33-36
 4 Ezra 1-4
 5 Ezra 5-7
 6 Ezra 8-10
 7 Nehemiah 1-3

8 Nehemiah 4-6
 9 Nehemiah 7-9
 10 Nehemiah 10-13
 11 Esther 1-3
 12 Esther 4-7
 13 Esther 8-10
 14 Job 1-4
 15 Job 5-7

16 Job 8-10
 17 Job 11-13
 18 Job 14-17
 19 Job 18-20
 20 Job 21-24
 21 Job 25-27
 22 Job 28-31
 23 Job 32-34

24 Job 35-37
 25 Job 38-42
 26 Psalms 1-4
 27 Psalms 5-8
 28 Psalms 9-12
 29 Psalms 13-15
 30 Psalms 16-18
 31 Psalms 19-21

JUNE

1. Psalms 22-24
 2. Psalms 25-27
 3. Psalms 28-30
 4. Psalms 31-33
 5. Psalms 34-36
 6. Psalms 37-39
 7. Psalms 40-42

8. Psalms 43-45
 9. Psalms 46-48
 10. Psalms 49-51
 11. Psalms 52-54
 12. Psalms 55-57
 13. Psalms 58-60
 14. Psalms 61-63
 15. Psalms 64-66

16. Psalms 67-69
 17. Psalms 70-72
 18. Psalms 73-75
 19. Psalms 76-78
 20. Psalms 79-81
 21. Psalms 82-84
 22. Psalms 85-87
 23. Psalms 88-90

24. Psalms 91-93
 25. Psalms 94-96
 26. Psalms 97-99
 27. Psalms 100-102
 28. Psalms 103-105
 29. Psalms 106-108
 30. Psalms 109-111

July

1. Psalms 112-114
 2. Psalms 115-118
 3. Psalms 119
 4. Psalms 120-123
 5. Psalms 124-128
 6. Psalms 129-132
 7. Psalms 133-136

8. Psalms 137-139
 9. Psalms 140-144
 10. Psalms 145-147
 11. Psalms 148-150
 12. Proverbs 1-3
 13. Proverbs 4-7
 14. Proverbs 8-11
 15. Proverbs 12-14

16. Proverbs 15-18
 17. Proverbs 19-21
 18. Proverbs 22-24
 19. Proverbs 25-28
 20. Proverbs 29-31
 21. Ecclesiastes 1-3
 22. Ecclesiastes 4-6
 23. Ecclesiastes 7-9

24. Ecclesiastes 10-12
 25. Song 1-4
 26. Song 5-8
 27. Isaiah 1-3
 28. Isaiah 4-6
 29. Isaiah 7-9
 30. Isaiah 10-12
 31. Isaiah 13-15

Easter tide

Easter tide covers a fifty-day period (six Sundays) that challenges persons to reflect on the resurrection of Jesus. Ascension Day is celebrated the sixth Thursday after Easter and commemorates the last manifestation of Jesus to His followers after the resurrection. (see Luke 24:50-51 & Acts 1:2-11) Ascension Sunday is the Sunday following Ascension Day. The season ends with the Day of Pentecost. (June 8, 2014)

Color: White is the appropriate color for the season, with gold as an accent color. White is symbolic of light, joy, purity, glory, and the bright light of truth.

Pentecost

Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church and reveals the descent or out pouring of the Holy Spirit on the believers in the Upper Room. (¹*On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ²Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. Acts 2:1-4*)

The Season After Pentecost

The Season After Pentecost is sometimes referred to as Whitsuntide or Trinity season. This period has also been divided by some denominations into The Season After Pentecost and Kingdomtide. When the period is divided, The Season After Pentecost covers 10-14 Sundays, and Kingdomtide covers 13-14 Sundays.

Color: Red is the liturgical color for the Season After Pentecost. Red is symbolic of loyalty, power, witness, Christian zeal, blood, fire, the work and ministry of the church, and the Holy Spirit.

Name of God	Meaning	Application
EL ELOHE YISRAEL	God, the God of Israel	The God of Israel is distinct and separate from all false gods of the world.
EL ELYON	The God Most High	He is the Sovereign God in whom we can put our trust. El Elyon has supremacy over all false gods.
ELOHIM	The All-powerful One	God is the all-powerful creator of the universe. God knows all, creates all, and is everywhere at all times. The plural of "EL".
EL OLAM	The Eternal God The Everlasting God	He is the Beginning and the End, the One who works His purposes throughout the ages. He gives strength to the weary.



Sunday School is a Family Affair

8:45 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We have classes for all ages – 3 to 103
 New Members Class meets at the same time.
 (For Transportation Needs Please call the Church 860-344-9527)

Come Grow with US!

LIFE WITHOUT GUILT

Scripture:
Romans 8:1-14

EXALT!

Invocation: Speak Lord so that we hear from heaven. Speak through Your word, our teacher, and to each of us. Center our thoughts on You. During this lesson and in the week to follow, let the Holy Ghost energize our spirits for your purpose. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Celebration: "Spirit of the Living God"
 Spirit of the Living God/Fall fresh on me.
 Spirit of the Living God/Fall fresh on me.
 Melt me, mold me. Fill me use me.
 Spirit of the Living God
 Fall fresh on me.

Declaration: *Romans 8:1-14*

1 *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law-indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.*

9 *But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is the life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him*

who raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwell in you.

12 *So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to flesh- 13 for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.*

Affirmation: "I am free in Christ to walk in the Spirit and live a life of no regrets!"

ENGAGE

1. "Guilt can either hold you back from growing or it can show you what you need to shift in your life."
2. "Grace means that all your mistakes now serve a purpose instead of serving shame."
3. "Guilt is rooted in actions of the past, perpetuated in the lack of action in the present, and delivered in the future as pain and suffering (David Reppo)"
4. "No one can send you on a guilt trip without your permission."

Divide into 2, 3, or 4 small groups. Each group is to pick a different quote from the selection above. Afterward, take about 5 minutes to discuss, as a group, whether or not you agree with your quote. You may cite today's Bible text and other Scripture to support your individual position. Then, decide as a group whether or not you agree with your quote, and why or why not. If there is time, share your group's conclusion with the entire class.

EDUCATE

All of humanity was condemned by Adam's trespass in the Garden of Eden (Romans 5:16). Although God gave commandments and laws to Moses, even the most righteous in Israel struggled to perfectly follow them all. Paul gives a vivid description of his own failure to keep the Law in Romans 7:15-23. And we can relate to his struggle. But "thanks be to God," as he declares, he has found his redemption in Christ Jesus (v. 25a). "There is

(Guilt on page 9)

Pray for all of our children, teens, young adults in this school years that God's hands will be upon them keeping them from all hurt, harm and danger. Also pray for all of our families, friends, and all of God's children.

(Guilt from page 8)

therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus" (8:1). Indeed, this is the Good News of the gospel and its message is worth sharing with the world!" The judgement has occurred, and the prisoner is sentenced. But in this case there is no condemnation. When does that happen? Now: Paul's eschatological now; today there is no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus."³³ What a burden is lifted off the shoulders of those who have been carrying a load of guilt and shame for so long, without hope. The hope of the Christian message, carried and shared by those who believe, is that we can be forgiven of our sins. Understanding and perhaps explaining to those who do not understand the impact and meaning of Romans 8:1-2 provides an opportunity for the cloud of guilt to dissipate and then a spirit of peace come over those who will believe.

In verse 2, the word "law", which is used twice means "principle" and is not a reference to a specific written law, such as the Mosaic Law referred to in verses 3 and 4. Another important thing to note is that the word "flesh" (sarx) is also used comparably with the word "body" (soma). In and of itself, the body is neither good nor bad. It is how the body is used that can become cause for concern. It is good when a body is used the way God had in mind. But, of course, it can be used apart from how God intended. "Paul's shorthand expression for a body that is misused is the term flesh. And so to live inappropriately is called living according to the flesh (kata sarka)."³⁴ A few of the characteristic associated with living in this manner include moral weakness, selfishness, and self-centeredness. Living according to the flesh increases one's susceptibility to sin and guilt. In Galatians 5:16-26, Paul describes in greater detail the believer's inner the struggle between the "flesh" and the "Spirit."

In Romans 8:5-8, Paul describes the role of the mind in this struggle. When we focus or dwell on things that gratify the "flesh," it can invoke hostility toward God and separation from God (vv. 6-7), and also make it impossible to please God (v.8). But when we think about and focus on cooperating with, being guided by and living a life of honor to the Spirit, we have life and peace (v. 6) . The Spirit, in Judaism, indicated the presence of God. In today's lesson, the Spirit communicates the presence, power and character of Jesus Christ.³⁵ Finally, verse 13 makes it clear that believer must take an active role in the defeat of sin in their lives. God defeated sin through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and gives those who

choose to live by the Spirit - and not according to the flesh - the strength to battle and the power to overcome lingering sinful habits.

ELEVATE

As Christians, we acknowledge that the natural consequence of sin is death and separation from God. We are not exempt from the struggle against sinful human tendencies to satisfy the desires of our flesh. We trust God to free us from the burden and guilt of sin, and to remove our condemnation. Let us continue to commit as believers to being filled with the spirit and adopting the Spirit's mindset. In addition to celebrating the freedom of life in the Spirit, let us also commit to sharing the good news of this new, guilt-free life with those who seek to find life in the flesh.

As a class, create two lists to compare/contrast what Paul said in today's passage about "the flesh" and "the Spirit."

I THINK:

- Share accounts about getting out of debt and compare/contrast these with God's works of removing our debt of con.

How does that fit in with Paul's statement that we are still debtors (v. 12)? What did he mean by that?

- When have believers had condemning attitudes toward one another? Toward the wider world? How could embracing the message of "no condemnation" serve to further spread the gospel?

VERSE OF THE WEEK:

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:1

From The Young People-Adult Quarterly (Ages 18 and up) International Sunday School Lessons for Christian Teaching

Sustained and Led by the Spirit

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Roman 8:26-30

(Doorway from page 1)

HE THAT ENTERETH NOT BY THE DOOR ...

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, **BUT CLIMBETH UP SOME OTHER WAY**, the same is a thief and a robber.” *John 10:1*

My friend, let me ask you a most important question, are you trying to enter heaven some other way? If you are, Jesus said, you are a thief and a robber.

Religion is not the door!
The preacher or the priest is not the door!
Water baptism is not the door!
Church membership is not the way!
Having good works is not the way!

JESUS IS THE ONLY DOORWAY TO HEAVEN!

“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved,” acts 4:12

There is nothing you can do on your own, to earn salvation and get to heaven, (But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousness are as filthy rags. Isaiah 64:6a) only by receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour can you enter into the kingdom of God.

HOW DO WE ENTER THE DOOR...

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man

believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9-10

“For whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” Romans 10:13

We enter the door, by asking Jesus to come into our hearts and save us.

“But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” John 1:12

Don't let the devil deceive you, by believing there is some other way. For he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44b)

Salvation and eternal life is a free gift to all, who will simply receive Jesus Christ into their heart.

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

Jesus said, in Mark 1:15: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.”

To believe the gospel, is to believe: “...**that Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; **and that he was buried**, and **that he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3b-4

Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and resurrected by the power of God, for our salvation.

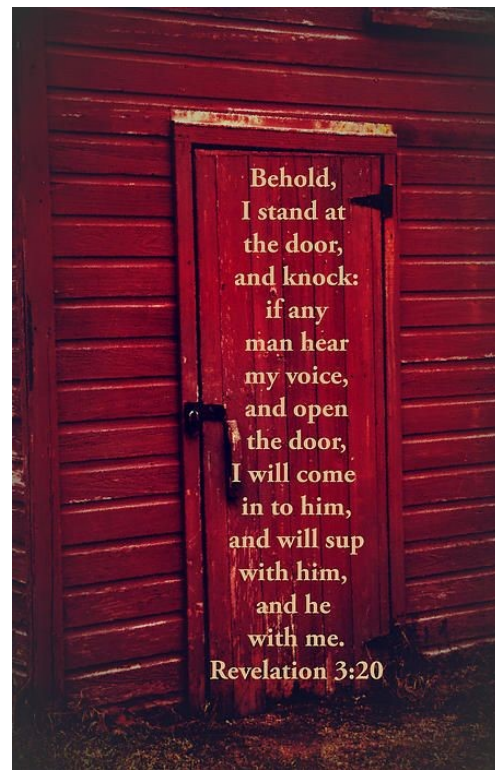
For God so loved the world, that he

gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

My friend, if you want to be sure that you are saved, and heaven will be your home; pray this simple sinner's prayer and mean it with all your heart.

Oh God, be merciful to me a sinner, I believe that Jesus died for my sins, I repent of my sins, and trust Jesus as my Lord and saviour. Thank you Lord Jesus for saving me. Amen

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:36



Food for Thought

May flowers always line your path
and sunshine light your day.

May songbirds serenade you every
step along the way.

May a rainbow run beside you in a sky that's always blue.

And may happiness fill your heart
each day your whole life through.
Irish Blessing

A warm smile is the universal language of kindness.
William Arthur Wand

Friendship isn't a big thing
It's a million little things.
Author Unknown

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good.
His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1

Barbara Perry Speaks

"His Name is the Key"

"And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God." 1 Corinthians 6:11

Let us pray, "Father in heaven, thank You for cleansing us and making us new by Your Spirit. Thank You for giving us access to Your wonderful blessings through Your Son, Jesus. We bless You

and praise You today, In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Something supernatural happens on the inside of us when we call on the name of the Lord. God actually makes His home in our heart by the Holy Spirit. Not only that, but when we call on His name, we are calling on everything He represents—life, peace, strength, hope, joy, healing, deliverance, forgiveness and so much more! It's like receiving the key to a mansion filled with treasures—and it's

all ours! See we can see that key in our hand; we can know that we have access anytime we want, but we still have to take a step and use the key to open the door before we can partake of the blessings inside. We probably wouldn't just peak in the door or visit once a week; no, move right in and make a decision today and call on His name and move right in to His provision, His joy, His peace, His love, Amen. Remember: When we do this we have the key, to receive the abundant life He has prepared for us, Amen!

"Give Generously"

The wicked borrows and does not repay, but the righteous shows mercy and gives. Psalms 37:21

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, today we are releasing every negative thing that has happened to us. Were forgiving every person who has hurt us. Were forgiving our self for mistakes we've made and releasing every disappointment so that we can live in Your peace and victory, In Jesus' Name, Amen, Amen, Amen.!"

Did you know that when we give to others in need, the Bible says it's like giving directly to God Himself? When we step out and bless other people, we are honoring and blessing the Lord. The Scripture tells us to give our best, to give generously. In other words, stretch yourself. Go out of your way. It may be uncomfortable to walk over and pay for someone's gas, but that's being generous.

Remember, people have many different types of needs. It could be encouragement, or someone in your life

just needs a friend. Give generously of your time and pour into that person. As you give generously to others, God will multiply those seeds in your own life in return, Amen!

So I encourage you today, look for ways to give generously and meet the needs of others. You can't help everyone, but you can help someone. Because you can be the answer to someone's prayers, Amen, Amen, Amen!

"Handfuls On Purpose"

And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the Lord your God. Deuteronomy 28:2

Let us pray, "Father in heaven, thank You for Your goodness and faithfulness in our life. We trust You as our Provider; You are the One who cares for us. And we acknowledge You with our love and thank You for leaving us "handfuls on purpose" today! In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Our God is a rewarder of those who

seek Him! When we keep God first place and do our best to honor Him, the Scripture says, "His blessings will chase us down and overtake us, Amen." What this means is that we will come into increase, promotion and good breaks that we didn't necessarily deserve. But, that's God rewarding us for walking in His ways.

We all know the story about Ruth when she was in the fields gathering up the leftover wheat that was missed and she took it to care of her mother-in-law, Naomi. One day, the owner of the fields, Boaz, told the workers to leave handfuls of wheat on purpose for Ruth. Right there

is when Ruth came into blessings that were simply dropped at her feet.

See every one of us can look back and see times where God has left us handfuls on purpose—something that we didn't deserve or even ask for. But we were just provided for unexpectedly, "Handful on purpose, Amen."

So I encourage you to always keep your expectancy up. Keep trusting God and obeying His voice because He is ready to bless you in unexpected ways today, Amen, Amen, Amen!

"Embrace Your Season"

To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1

Let us pray, "Father in heaven, thank You for Your faithfulness in all seasons of our life. We trust that our time is coming, and we choose to remain faithful. We submit out ways to You today and trust that You have the best plan for our life. We love You and praise Your Name today, In Jesus' Name, Amen, Amen, Amen."

God has ordained seasons and cycles in our lives. Sometimes, when our dreams aren't coming to pass on our timetable, we can be tempted to get frustrated. But we have to be careful not to allow our attitude to keep us from moving forward. You must understand that in God's kingdom, every season is not harvest. Every season is not springtime, with beautiful flowers, gorgeous sunshine and cool breezes.

See there are plowing seasons, planting seasons and watering seasons.

Sure, we would love for every season to be a time of increase, but without the other seasons, we wouldn't be prepared for promotion. We have to choose to rejoice. Because God has given us not only the grace to endure this season but to enjoy the season. So when we're content, we will see each day as a gift, appreciate the people in our lives, and are grateful for what God has given us. That is not only developing our character, but we're passing the test. We will come out of winter and into our springtime, Amen, Amen, Amen.

(You Decide from page 1)

coincidence, a happenstance or nothing of the sort?

Let's start from the beginning. It is well documented in my family, at least to my two daughters, my nephew and one of my brothers, that I have been extremely infatuated with Aretha Franklin. I loved everything about Aretha so much so that I had this infantile fantasy that if she had accepted my proposal to create a union with me, she would still be living. Unfortunately for all of us, she never knew who I was and never paid any attention to any of my phantom overtures. All in my dreams, of course!

Well, since her passing, I have been playing several of her numerous songs daily; both from my own CD collections and from the web, particularly, on YouTube. Currently, my most favorite of all is one put out by Mack Simpson, with the title, "The Top Aretha Franklin Gospel Songs! – Lyric Video". It is a collection of some of her church gospel recordings including the one that lies in the center of this essay. That track is: "Oh Mary Don't You Weep". It starts – "Oh Mary, don't you weep, don't you mourn. Didn't Pharaoh's army get drowned? Oh, Mary don't you weep -- -".

Aretha does her own thing as usual, and starts to narrate the biblical passage of John 1 as if she actually wrote the story. Just as she did with Otis Redding's "Respect", Aretha gives that gospel song, her own twist. At some point she sings, "Martha said Master, If you had been here my brother wouldn't have died, -- yes, she did ---". And later, Aretha claims that, Jesus said; " --- and for the benefit of you, who don't believe me, I'm going to call him three times , oh yes, I am, - --- he got up walking like a natural man, yes he did ---- ". On and on and on. I just cannot get enough of this particularly gospel by Aretha. Her personal, and audacious license to grab any biblical passage and narrate it her own way, fascinates me to no end. She lived her life on that score, making and remaking her own

versions of all narratives as she went along.

But wait, as I have been playing Aretha, I have also had the time to play some other gospels from the Ghanaian perspective. There is one group that calls itself "Onyame Nkrabea Nwomkro" with a medley of gospel songs done in the Asante traditional Adowa gospel style with lyrics in Twi. Led by Akua Afriyie, they also have a "Mary and Martha" narration that is completely different from what Aretha did on "Mary Don't You Weep". As you can imagine, I have spent quite a while playing both versions and analyzing for variations, similarities and complete deviations from what John wrote in the Bible. I had been doing this for a few days before my younger brother arrived from U.K. to spend the spring with me. Naturally, with his arrival, I had a sounding board; a willing listener who would understand my dilemma with these songs about John's account of Mary, Martha and Lazarus and how Jesus was able to wake him up from the dead even after four days of Hebrew interment.

To add to my unending interests in this particular biblical story and the accompanying gospel songs by various artists, my nephew pointed me to a different version of "Mary and Martha" by another popular gospel performer, Grace Kelly. In this version Grace narrates the story from the point of view of the long delay of four days before Jesus arrived on the scene. Even with that much time passed, He was still able to raise him up from the dead.

All of this fascination; the three different, but absolutely interesting presentations of the Biblical story turned into gospel songs, would not interest anyone else but me, until you read these other parts of these events.

For some reason, I had an invitation to attend a Lay Servant's Class for Methodist's non-clergy members, who desire to serve in other capacities of their churches in support of the clergy's efforts. Drawn to this

more from curiosity than anything else, I accepted the invitation and did my preparations and was accepted into the class. It turned out to be a phenomenon class, worthwhile and quite an eye-opening experience for me. At the conclusion of the class, in the vein and hint of our current "Radical Hospitality" theme, I invited members of the class to visit my church, Cross Street, and in return promised to visit some on their churches, too. True to that promise, on Sunday April 7th, I visited the Community United Wesleyan Church in Ellington. Guess what? The scripture reading that day was from the Gospel of John 12:1-8, when Jesus spent time in Bethany with Lazarus, the one he had raised up previously. It was at that meeting in the home of Mary and Martha that Mary poured a pound of very costly oil on Jesus' feet and wiped with her hair. The sermon that morning was "God Moves to Empty Ourselves".

The very next Sunday, I returned to my usual Cross Street Church and attended Sunday School. The Home Daily Bible Readings for the week that were used for this class included one from Wednesday April 10, which was, guess what? John 12: 1-8. Same passage I encountered in the previous Sunday at the Ellington church. Subject for the day was – "May Anoints Jesus' body for Burial".

In summary, I had encountered the passage of John's Gospel that is centered on Mary, Martha and their brother Lazarus, a friend of Jesus in five different settings all independent of each other and in no way planned, over the past few days. What do you think?

Kwame Ocansey on kwame6@att.net.

(Master from page 1)

I swept, and polished, and garnished,
and decked it with blossoms sweet;
I was troubled for fear the Master
Might come ere my task was done,
And I hastened and worked the faster,
And watched the hurrying sun.

But right in the midst of my duties
A women came to my door;
She had come to tell me her sorrows,
And comfort and aid to implore.
And I said: "I cannot listen,
Nor help you any today,
I have greater things to attend to."
And the pleader turned away.

But there soon came another ---
A cripple, thin, pale and gray ---
And said: "Oh, let me stop and rest
awhile in your home, I pray!"

and I said: "I am grieved and sorry,
but I cannot help you today,
I look for a Great and Noble Guest."
And the cripple went away.

And I thought I would spring to meet
Him
and serve Him with utmost care,
when a little child stood by me,
with face so sweet and fair ---
and I said: "I am sorry for you,
you are sorely in need of care,
but I cannot stop to give it,
you must hasten off elsewhere."

I waited till night had deepened,
And the Master had not come;
"He entered some other door," I cried
"and gladdened some other home!"
then the Master stood before me,
and His face was grave and fair;

"Three times today I came to your
door,
and craved your pity and care;
three times you sent Me onward,
un-helped and un-comforted,
and the blessing you might have had
was lost
and your chance to serve has fled."

"O Lord, dear Lord, forgive me!
How could I know it was Three?"
My very soul was shamed and bowed
in the depths of humility.
And He said: "The sin is Pardoned,
But the blessing is lost to thee,
For, comforting not the least of mine,
ye have failed to comfort Me."

Author Unknown

(Worship from page 1)

the sanctuary as a sheltered place,
the worship culminates in a dedication
of life to go forth in service to the
world. In Protestant tradition worship
has been known as a "meeting" in
which persons meet together to meet
God.

Our services are designed so that
our members can have a full
opportunity to worship. We begin our
Morning Worship promptly at 10:00
A.M.. We should make each moment
with God in worship count for good.

Worshippers should really be in
their seats at least ten minutes before
the formal worship begins. This gives
the worshiper time to prepare himself
for worship in quiet meditation: to
withdraw his mind from all outside
attractions.

Entering The Worship Area:

When entering the worship area we
must be concerned about those who
are already in and meditating as they
prepare for service. Considering this,
it would follow that we would enter the
sanctuary quietly and reverently; take
our places and begin our meditation
(save greeting for the close of the
service). If possible all entering
should be done during the PRELUDE.
However, if one comes after the
Prelude specific times will be set for
their entrance.

The Actual Worship: The
PRELUDE is the beginning of our
period of meditation in preparation for
worship. The organist will begin the
prelude at 9:45 A.M.. During this
period those who are in the sanctuary
will be able to begin preparing
themselves for worship service. It is a
devout and quiet period and should be
reserved for purposes of preparatory
meditation.

The Call To Worship: At 10:00
A.M., the pastor will give the call to
worship. This is the summons to
attention, to waken absent-minded
apathy. It is the recognition of the
solemn privilege of meeting God. The
introit declares God is in His Holy
Temple. Let all keep silence before
him.

The Processional: After the
Introit, the PROCESSIONAL begins
as the choir proceeds from the rear of
the church to its position in the
chancel. The congregation joins the
choir in the singing of the
processional. Processionals are
dramatic invitations to advance into
the presence of God, moving from a
natural point of departure directly
toward the altar. Processionals
represent man's journey to God, an
urgent forward march that lingers not,
nor wanders, but moves onward to a

definite goal. A congregation that
joins in the processional hymn with
understanding is advancing to meet
God.

The Invocation: The
INVOCATION is the calling of a
superior being to be present. This
prayer offers salutations to God and
invokes his presence in the worship.
It may be a vocal salutation, sung by
the choir.

The Morning Hymn: This is the
first hymn of the worship service. It
expresses praise, rejoicing in gratitude
and ascribes glory and honor to His
Name.

The Responsive Reading: The
RESPONSIVE READING is the
opportunity for the whole congregation
to share in the reading of the word.
The responsive reading reflects the
togetherness of the congregation
toward its central theme of
worshipping God.

The Gloria Patri: The GLORIA
PATRI is said or sung to bridge the
gap between the Old Testament
Scriptures and the New Testament
Scriptures. It expresses our belief in
the Judeo Christian Faith.

The Affirmation Of Faith: The

(Worship on page 14)

(Worship from page 13)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH is a constructive act of rejoicing in the truth. To recite a creed is to declare a faith with conviction as a code to live by and die for. There is value in confessing the faith that binds the worshipers to a common heritage.

The Scripture Lesson: The SCRIPTURE LESSON is guiding thought to spiritual verities. The lesson should be carefully chosen. A reader who is absorbed in the message to the point of forgetting himself becomes a voice for the utterance of truth. The Bible holds a central place in Christian worship as the voice of divine revelation.

The Call to Prayer: This call may be said by the minister as sung by the choir. It is intended to prepare the people for prayer. It assures the congregation of God's willingness to hear and answer prayer.

The Pastoral Prayer: The PASTORAL PRAYER is a meeting of mutual concerns. Extempore prayers may wander far or settle into ruts of well-worn phrases. Yet to read prayers is often to miss the sense of direct address to God. Here, if anywhere, worship is seeking to meet and commune with God. One who is equally aware of the divine Presence and of human dependence is in the

mood of prayer. To voice the needs of men and the desire of God to meet those needs is a priestly privilege and responsibility of the minister.

The Choral Section: CHORAL SECTION is a musical outburst to express praise, icing in gratitude, faith and consecration.

Pastoral Observations & Announcements: At this point we give announcements of church activities and special observations by the pastor.

The Offering: The OFFERING dramatizes the generous impulse to give. The gift without the giver is bare, yet if the giver offers himself, there is counter. It may be the climax of the whole service if one makes it a complete offering in dedication to God. The historic devotion of sacrifice is reenacted here, when the worshiper brings forward to the altar his sacrificial gifts to offer his best to God. A genuine offering has the emotional release of surrender and the votive act of dedicating oneself as a living sacrifice.

The Hymn Of Preparation: This is a carefully chosen hymn intended to prepare the congregation to receive the message.

The Sermon: The SERMON is central in many Protestant services,

bringing a united search for the deeper meaning and concerns of the religious life, to declare and decide to follow this way.

The Invitation: After the exposition of God's word, we "Open the doors of the Church," and extend the invitation to Christian Discipleship to those who would declare and decide to follow in the Way. The hymn is sung as an indication of our desire to be consecrated to Him.

The Recessional: The RECESSIONAL provides a formal closing for the service. It signifies marching forth to serve humanity.

The Benediction: The BENEDICTION offers repose easily lost in closing the service. The benediction sends the worshiper forth with the guiding and sustaining presence "Even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20

The Postlude: This is the period of reflection on the worship experience. In these moments of quietness before dismissal the value of the whole service may be summed up in perspective.

This "The Star of Zion" article by Reverend Vernon A. Shannon, was presented to the adult class during Vacation Bible School by Sister Addie

Realize the Power Within You

Realize the power that is within you, and you will no longer be the victim of a depressed spirit.
 And what is this inner power? Simply the God-given ability to believe.
 To the extent to which you develop this faculty, you will master the defeats in your life.
 The great issue is to learn to believe.

This is stated in one of the most important of all Scripture passages:

Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Mark 9:23

Learn to believe. Learn to cast out doubt. This is done by the practice of affirmation. Affirm faith, think positively, visualize achievement. Never think doubt. Always think faith.

This text affirms that when you learn to believe, the area of the impossible is vastly reduced and the area of the possible is greatly increased.

If you set this text firmly at the center of your thought patterns, you will never again be a victim of low spirits.

Joyce Meyer: Promises for your Everyday Life - a Daily Devotional

Carnal Christians and Spiritual Christians

“for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?”

1 Corinthians 3:3

There are two kinds of Christians, and you have to choose which one you will be. Will you be a carnal Christian or a spiritual Christian?

A carnal Christian is a people-pleaser who cares more about what people think than about obeying God. They are immature, operating out of their emotions

and doing whatever they feel like saying and doing. They are usually in strife, discontent, easily offended and lacking peace.

There are far too many Christians living this way today. But you can be different.

You can be a spiritual Christian who diligently follows after the desires of the Spirit you can be that Christian who will feed their spirit with the Word every day. You can be the Christian who will let God into every area of your life, not just church on Sundays.

I urge you today to make a full-time

commitment to follow Christ. Let the Lord into everything you do. Walk with integrity, humility and peace. Get along with others. Display the fruit of the spiritual Christian and enjoy the favor of God.

Make the choice today. Will you be a carnal Christian or a spiritual Christian?

Prayer Starter: God, I don't want to be a carnal Christian, always led by the flesh. Instead, I want to be led by the Holy Spirit, living a life that pleases you. I choose today to be a spiritual Christian, not a carnal one.

Keep God's Temple in Good Shape

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?”

1 Corinthians 6:19

Until I turned 64, I'd never exercised in a serious way. I had walked and done a few things to stay in decent shape, but I was not dedicated to exercise. I had reached into my excuse bag many times over the years and come up with all kinds

of 'reason' I could not exercise. But the Lord spoke to me and encouraged me to begin a serious workout program so I could be strong for the last third of my journey through life.

I already had good eating habits, and when I obeyed the Lord and started going to the gym several times a week, I stepped into a new season of life. I looked better, I felt better, and most importantly, I was honoring God by taking good care of the body He gave me.

I urge you to trust God and start finding ways to pursue health daily. The Word says that our bodies are temple of God. I don't know about you, but I want to make sure that God likes His temple! Today, make the choice to keep your temple in excellent shape for God.

Prayer Starter: Lord, I commit to a lifestyle of good physical health. Help me to make good choices that will continually improve my health. My body is Your temple, and I want to keep it in excellent shape for you!

“Godly Motives”

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties.”
Psalms 139:23

Years ago when we were struggling financially, I grew tired of believing for a breakthrough and broke down before the Lord. I cried about it for a while and then, by the grace of God, I made a decision and declared: 'God, I am going to tithe and give offerings until the day I die,

whether I ever see anything come from it or not!

I believe with all my heart this was a test for me to see why I was really giving. The Lord wanted to reveal whether I had the right, godly motives. If I had been sure of reward, I may have only selfishly given to get something out of God.

There's been a lot of teaching and preaching that says, 'Do this and you'll get that.' but what about having a pure heart

that says, 'I want to do the right thing just because it's right and it glorifies God?'

I urge you to test your motives today and make sure they're not self-centered. Make a wholehearted commitment to serve God for the right reasons.

Prayer Starter: Holy Spirit, search my heart and expose my true motives and intentions today. If they are not godly in any area, point them out to me and help me to change.

“Don't Let Yourself Snap.”

“Also unto you, O Lord, belongs mercy; For You render to each one according to his work.” Psalms 62:12

Let's say you're working around the house and break a rubber band while trying to stretch it around something. You can't find another rubber band, so you try to fix the broken one by tying the ends together.

Sometimes in our daily lives, we stretch ourselves beyond our capacity,

and we snap like the rubber band. We think we fixed the problem by simply tying the ends back together. But soon we fall into the same behavior that caused us to break down in the first place.

Over time with repeated exposure to stress, our lives begin to resemble that worn-out rubber band. It can completely deplete us.

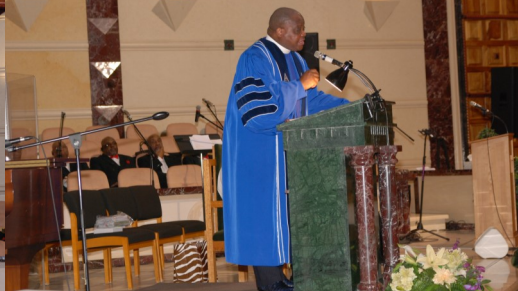
Ignoring God's laws and His ordained limits for our lives will ultimately cause burnout. You simply can't continue to overwork your mind, emotions and body

without eventually paying the price. But that's not how God wants you to live.

Adjust your perspective to match God's. Seek His peace and His pace for your life. Respect your body. Treat good health as a priceless gift. Don't waste the energy God has given you on stress. Save it for living and enjoying life!

Prayer Starter: God, I want to find my rest in you. Instead of constantly going and snapping under stress, show me how to follow Your pace for my life.

MEN'S DAY MARCH 24, 2019



WORDS TO LIVE BY

The Rose Beyond The Wall

*A rose once grew
where all could see,
shelter beside
a garden wall,
And, as the days
passed swiftly by,
it spread its branches,
straight and tall...*

*One day,
a beam of light shone
through a crevice
that had opened wide --
The rose bent gently
toward its warmth
then passed beyond
to the other side...*

*Now,
you who deeply feel its loss,
be comforted --
the rose blooms there --
Its beauty even greater now,
nurtured by God's own loving care.*

LOVE WON'T STOP

READ: Luke 15:1-7

Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep. Luke 15:6

After I turned nineteen, and years before I owned a pager or a cell phone, I moved more than seven hundred miles away from my mom. One morning, I left early to run errands, forgetting our scheduled call. Later that night, two policeman came to my door. Mom had been worried because I'd never missed one of our chats. After calling repeatedly and getting a busy signal, she reached out to the authorities and insisted they check on me. One of the police officers turned to me and said, "It's a blessing to know love won't stop looking for you."

When I picked up the phone to call my mom, I realized I had accidentally left the receiver off its base. After I apologized, she said she needed to spread the good news to the family and friends she had informed that I'd been missing. I hung up thinking she'd overreacted a bit, though it felt good to be loved that much.

Scripture paints a beautiful picture of God, who is love,

relentlessly beckoning His wandering children. Like a good shepherd, He cares about and seeks out every lost sheep, affirming the priceless value of every beloved child of God. (Luke 15:1-7)

Love never stops looking for us. He will pursue us until we've returned to Him. We can pray for others who need to know that Love-God-never stops looking for them either.

How does it encourage you to know that God continually pursues you in love? How is He using you to reveal His love to others?

Heavenly Father, thank you for pursuing us with persistence and providing a safe place when we return to Your loving arms

Ministries, Grand Rapids, Michigan,
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Crises/Emergency: Cell phone 860-754-4606

Cross Street Recovery Ministry the "Hope Line" is in operation 24 hours per day. Please call 860-754-4606 if you, a friend and/or a family member are in need of counseling and/or are in crisis, **PLEASE** dial the "Hope Line". All information will be confidential.

CROSS STREET MINISTRY OF RECOVERY

We can't but through God, all things are possible. How might we pull on God's strength to help each other recover?

Let the spirit of God work for you in a Mighty, Mighty Way

For more information contact:
Church office 860-344-9527.or
Rev. Gregory B. Winborne: Days: 860-616-3834

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Sunday 8:45 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Worship Service 2nd Sunday Senior Usher Board Meeting (following service) Youth Meeting 1st & 4th Sunday's (following service)</p> <p>Monday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 7:00-9:00 p.m. Bible Study, Eddy Shelter 7:00 Media Ministry (1st and 3rd of month)</p> <p>Tuesday Special Prayer for Pastor Harvill 6:00—7:00 p.m. Prayer meeting and</p>	<p>bible study.</p> <p>Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Zumba 6:00 p.m. Ministerial Staff (1st of month)</p> <p>Thursday 6:00 p.m. Steward Board 7:00 p.m. Trustee Board (2nd of month)</p> <p>Friday Day of Fasting 6:00 p.m. Vision Choir (3rd & 4th of month) 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm Cross Street Recovery Ministry (room 2)</p>	<p>Saturday 10:00 a.m. Pastors Aide (2nd) 11:00 a.m. Security Ministry Meeting (2nd Saturday of month) 12:00 noon Missionaries (2nd Saturday of month)</p> <p>Choir Rehearsals Men - 7 p.m. Monday Women - Tuesday & Friday before 5th Sunday Children - 7 p.m. Friday before 1st Sunday Unity - 7 p.m. Thursday Praise & Worship Choir 7:00 pm Wednesday</p>
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MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

<p>Thursday June 6 @ 6:00 pm Women's Bible Study</p> <p>Saturday, June 8 @ 10:30 am New England Conference Choir Rehearsal @ Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church All Cross Street Choirs should be in attendance.</p> <p>Sunday, June 9 @ 10:00 am Graduation Convocation & Pentecost Sunday Dr. Michael T. Conner, MPS Superintendent will be our guest speaker. Requesting members to bring a pot blessing dish for lunch following service.</p>	<p>Sunday, June 16 @ 7:45 am Morning Worship & Father's Day Service @ 10:00 am New England Annual Conference Service</p> <p>Sunday, June 23 @ 10:00 am Women's Day More information to come</p> <p>Friday, June 28 Pastor Harvill's Birthday</p> <p>Saturday, June 29 @ 5:00 pm Juneteenth Celebration</p>	<p>TICKETS TO CROSS STREET CHURCH'S Juneteenth Celebration Saturday, June 29 @5:00pm</p> <p>Adults: Concert & Dinner - \$50. Concert Only - \$25.</p> <p>Children (12 & under): Concert & Dinner - \$25. Concert Only - \$1</p> <p>****Please see a member of the "Water Walkers" Committee or stop by the church office to purchase your ticket!!!</p>
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<p>June 12- 16 @ 10:00 am New England Annual Conference Held at: Hartford Marriott Farmington 15 Farm Spring Road Farmington, CT 06032 Host Church: Metropolitan A.M.E. Zion Church</p> <p>Thursday, June 14th @ 7:00 pm Unity Choir singing Van will be leaving @ 5:45 pm</p> <p>Friday, June 14th @ 7:00 pm Missionary Night Van will be leaving @ 5:45 pm</p>	<p>Saturday, June 15th Christian Education Department Van will be leaving @ 9:00 am</p> <p>Sunday, June 16 @ 10:00 am New England Annual Conference Service @ Faith Seven Day Adventist Church 500 Woodland Street Hartford, CT 06112 Van will be leaving at 9:00 am</p>
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Doxology
Now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy. To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.
Jude 24-25



2018 - 2019 EVANGELIZING - EQUIPPING - EMPOWERING JOYFULLY SERVING & GIVING

CROSS STREET A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

Organized in 1823

440 West Street P.O. Box 223
Middletown, CT 06457

Phone: 860-344-9527 Fax: 860-344-1740

crossstreetchurch@snet.net

www.crossstreetamezion.org

Sunday School — 8:45 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Moses L. Harvill, M. Div.,
Pastor

Email: mharvill@snet.net

The Rev. Dr. Terry L. Jones
Presiding Elder

Mrs. D. Diane Proctor
Missionary Supervisor

The Right Reverend Dennis Proctor
Presiding Prelate

Ministerial Staff

Rev. Robyn Anderson-Turner

Rev. William D. Wilson

Rev. Ella Frances Perry

Rev. Karen Nesmith

Rev. James Battle

Rev. Myrtle Turner

Rev. Gregory Winborne

Rev. Joyce Johnson

Rev. Earlene Grants

Sister Felicia Freeman



"I am a Christian"

By Maya Angelou

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not shouting "I'm clean livin'."
I'm whispering "I was lost,
Now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble
And need Christ to be my guide.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I'm weak
And need His strength to carry on.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed
And need God to clean my mess.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches
So I call upon His name.

When I say ... "I am a Christian"
I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner
Who received God's good grace, some-
how!

The Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Our Father which art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is
in heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our debts, as we
forgive our debtors. And lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom, and the
power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.



Then the Lord answered me and said:
Write the vision and make it plain on
tablets, that he may run who reads it.
Habakkuk 2:2

The Jabez Prayer

And Jabez called on the God of Israel
saying, "Oh, that You would bless me
indeed, and enlarge my territory, that
Your hand would keep me from evil,
that I may nor cause pain!" So God
granted him what he requested.
1 Chronicles 4:10 (NKJV)

"God's Word

*For the word of God is quick, and power-
ful, and sharper than any two-edged
sword, piercing even to the dividing asun-
der of soul and spirit, and of the joints
and marrow, and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of the heart"*
Hebrews 4:12

Prayer: Forever, O Lord, your Word is
settled in heaven. I bless you because
you have given me rest according to all
that you have promised to me. Not one
word of all your good promises has ever
failed. In light of this truth, I will walk in
your Word at all times.
I love your Word, Father, it is a lamp unto
my feet, and a light unto my path. All of
your words are pure, O God, and you are
a shield to me. Lord God, your way is

perfect, and your Word is tried. You are a
shield and a mighty buckler to me as I
trust in you.

With your Word you made the heavens,
O Lord. all of your promises are yes in
Christ, unto your glory, O God. You have
spoken through your Word since ancient
times, in order to give light to those who
sit in darkness, and you guide my feet in
the way of peace.

Your Word is quick, alive, and powerful,
and sharper than any two-edged sword.
It pierces even to the dividing asunder of
my soul and spirit, and of my joints and
marrow, and is a discerner of the
thoughts and intents of my heart.

Father, I am thankful for your Word, and I
will endeavor to walk in the light of your
Word all the days of my life.

If you were to die today, do you know where you will spend eternity ???

The Cross Street Journal is published Bi-monthly. If you have an article or information for current and future publications the deadline for this information is the Monday after the 2nd Sunday of each Month. **You may submit your information in the following ways:** place the information on a CD (Window format) and leave it in the Cross Street office with Verna Boyce Or, E-mail Ken Simmons (Ken46@snet.net), or give it to him **Praise God!!!**