

Unity

A Saint
Matthew
Missionary
Baptist Church
Publication

March, 2025

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!

Psalm 133:1

Sundays

Sunday School

9:30am

Worship Service

10:45AM

Wednesdays

**Youth Bible Study and
Activities**

(In Family Life Center)

5-6:30 P.M.

Adult Bible Study

(In Sanctuary)

6:30 P.M.



**Don't forget to set clocks ahead one
hour on Sunday, March 9th at 2a.m.**

Pray for Wisdom...

⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. ⁷ Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. ⁸ And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. ⁹ Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

¹⁰ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. ¹³ And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. ¹⁴ So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

I Kings 3:5-14

Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

GOD IS NOT A RACIST Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and one speech. ² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar, and they dwelt there. ³ Then they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They had brick for stone, and they had asphalt for mortar. ⁴ And they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad over the face of the whole earth." ⁵ But the LORD came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built. ⁶ And the LORD said, "Indeed the people are one and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them. ⁷ Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they ceased building the city. ⁹ Therefore its name is called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth; and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

The first book of the Bible, Genesis, gives us the beginning of everything; the beginning of Man, the first sin, the beginning of nations. God made all of us by one blood. By one blood, God created all Mankind. The Church ought to see one blood, one race.

Genesis 9:25-27 Then he said: "Cursed be Canaan; A servant of servants He shall be to his brethren." And he said: "Blessed be the Lord, The God of Shem, And may Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth, And may he dwell in the tents of Shem; And may Canaan be his servant."

In some cases, our interpretation of Scripture, can make God seem like a racist. Understand, Noah couldn't curse what God had already blessed. *Genesis 9:1 So God blessed Noah and his sons, and said to them: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.* Noah couldn't undo what God had done.

Genesis gives us the beginning of Hebrew people. *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. Romans 1:16* Some interpret this to say that God favors the Israelites over the Gentiles. *Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.* God simply calls out a vessel to be used for His glory and for the benefit of men. It was through Israel that salvation was to come to the world. God is no respecter of person.

Genesis 10:8-12 records the first world ruler, Nimrod (a grandson of Ham) Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord.

Genesis 11:1-9 is about people rebelling against God, the rebellion is led by Nimrod. All people on the face of the earth rebelled against the plan and program of God.

God didn't invent race at Babel, the people of one race were working together, they were united. Unfortunately, that is not what God commanded them to do. They had so much pride, in their endeavor they disobeyed God and tried to steal His glory. So, God scattered them.

When it comes to salvation, the color of your skin doesn't matter. God is not a racist.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, February 2, 2025

GOD IS NOT A RACIST; A CHOSEN PEOPLE

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the Lord had said to Abram:

*“Get out of your country, From your family
And from your father’s house, To a land that I will show you.
2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you
And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”*

GOD is not a racist. But when studying the Bible, if we are not careful, it can be made to make Him appear to be a racist. What God does, He has a purpose.

GOD is not a racist! The LORD we serve does not endorse racism. The Holy Bible is the word of GOD. The Bible speaks to racism in Romans 2:11 For there is no partiality with God.

GOD Is the Creator of people. He made us in His image. And in the message today, we see that God will use Abram as a vessel to bring forth His program.

The Abrahamic Covenant is foundational for God to bless humanity. He chose Abram to be the vessel to bless all humanity.

1. Chosen: Ephesians 1: 4a Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world.
2. Elect: Roman 8: 28b Those who were called according to God's purpose.
3. Appointed: 1 Peter 2: 9a We are a chosen (appointed) generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.

God did not cause division. Men has caused the division. Abraham was chosen to impact the kingdom of GOD. We need to be like Abraham. To be blessed takes obedience and a proper prayer life and we need to live right.

We need to delight ourselves in the LORD. We, the saints were called by God for such a time like this.

Scripture is the Word of GOD for the people of GOD. Nimrod, the first world leader, was a black man. Nimrod led all men, white, black, yellow and red, to rebel against GOD. The tower of Babel fell and they were scattered throughout the earth.

We need to be thankful for Jesus Christ. The Creator allowed His Son to be nailed to the Cross for our salvation. Be thankful that Jesus Christ paid the price for us. That is the perfect proof that GOD is not a racist!

Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin, Sunday, February 9, 2025



Solomon was a very rich king. He lived in a beautiful big palace where everything was made of gold. It was filled with amazing things. All of these things were nice, but the most important thing that Solomon had was **wisdom**.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the 8 differences between these pictures?



Happy Anniversary!

Phyllis and Wallace
Simmons 3/15/06

&

Bess and Victor
Griffin 3/29/97

WE WELCOME AND THANK GOD FOR OUR NEWEST MUSICIANS AT SAINT MATTHEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH.....



Dr. Johnetta Hardy Lee is a talented, skilled organist, pianist, and director with over 40 years of experience serving as a Minister of Music in a variety of Christian denominations throughout the Greater Birmingham area. She accepted Christ at an early age and quickly developed a love for Christian music and worship. She studied piano under the tutelage of the late Sis. Rosie Pritchett, most affectionally known as Little Sister. She trained in organ instrumentation under the guidance of the late Mrs. Geraldine Givan. She furthered her studies in theory and classical music through private lessons at Forbes Piano Company and as a Clarinetist in her high school marching band. Dr. Lee plays in a variety of musical genres, but has a devout passion for glorifying God and enhancing the worship experience through traditional hymns and contemporary gospel.

Dr. Lee is a retired Guidance Counselor for Birmingham City Schools where she proudly served for twenty-five years. She is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Alabama State University, and Miles Law School where she received a Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Master of Education (M.Ed.), and Juris Doctor (J.D.), respectively.

Dr. Lee is the founding member and inspiration behind the development of the Lee Family band. She is the loving wife of Bass Guitarist, Percy A. Lee, Jr., and the proud mother of Pianist, Dr. Ashaunti Parker, Esq. & Saxophonist, Treyvin Lee (Tre”).



Dr. Ashaunti Parker, Esq. accepted Christ and developed a love for music at a very early age. Growing up in a family of musicians, there was no question of whether she would play, but which instrument she would play. She began learning piano under the tutelage of her mother, Dr. Johnetta Lee, at the tender age of six. She also studied theory and classical music as a Clarinetist in the concert and marching band from elementary to high school. By 12 years old, she quickly developed from rendering one selection for the annual Easter and Christmas programs to accompanying her mother on the piano every Sunday at church. By age 14, she was asked to venture on her own to serve as the sole musician for a few area churches. She is a proud graduate of A.H. Parker High School where she served as Head Majorette and was bestowed the honor of Valedictorian of her class. After completing her undergraduate studies, she later rejoined

her mother where the dynamic duo complements each other in Sunday worship.

By profession, Dr. Parker serves as the Staff Attorney for Birmingham City Schools (BCS) where she has served in its Legal Department for twelve years. Prior to joining the legal team, she worked in private practice and as an educator for BCS. She is a member of the Alabama Council of School Board Attorneys where she previously served as its President, Vice President and Board of Director. She is a proud graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana, Birmingham School of Law, and Alabama State University where she received a Bachelor of Science (B.S), Master of Education (M.Ed.), Juris Doctor (J.D.), and Doctor of Educational Leadership, Policy, and Law (Ed. D).

She is the loving mother of Zeric Jr., Chase, and Zoey Parker.

Let the Word of God Transform You

KEEP THE FAITH Hebrews 10:19-25

Rev. Edwin Washington, Associate Minister, Saint Matthew, Docena, AL

¹⁹ Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, His flesh, ²¹ and having a High Priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. ²³ Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

God wants us to keep the faith. He's still in control. God does not want us to grow weary no matter what's going on today.

1. TRUST IN JESUS CHRIST - (v19) We are covered with the blood of the Lamb; the Perfect Sacrifice. There is no other way to the Father but through Jesus Christ.
2. CHRIST IS IN HEAVEN INTERCEEDING FOR US - (vv20-21) There is no longer a veil that separates us from God. Through Christ, we already have the victory. We just have to keep the faith.
3. WITH TRUE AND SINCERE HEARTS, WE CAN ENTER THE PRESENCE OF GOD - (vv22-23) Only Christ can remove sin from our hearts. He will finish the work He started in us.
4. WE HAVE TO UPLIFT ONE ANOTHER - (vv24-25) We have to encourage one another in agape love; forgive one another, have willingness to show mercy. We need to be kind to one another. We should worship with each other, be in the House of God with people of God.

Keep the faith by remembering the Word of God and by remembering what God has already done.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, February 16, 2025

A STRIVING CHURCH THAT'S MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Matthew 28:19-20

Rev. Bobby Clancey, Assistant Pastor, Christian Walk Baptist Church, Midfield, AL

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

If we're going to have disciples, we need to teach the Word of God:

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Romans 5:8-10 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. 10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

Not only do we teach the Word of God, we have to also demonstrate the Word of God:

John 13:13 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.

Paul told Timothy in 1 Timothy 1:18-19 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, 19 having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck,

Ephesians 5:1-2 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

Philippians 3:14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, February 23, 2025

WHEN THE FAR COUNTRY IS CLOSER THEN YOU THINK Luke 15:11-20

Reverend Lawrence Jackson, Pastor Greater Grace Missionary Baptist Church

¹¹ Then He said: "A certain man had two sons. ¹² And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood. ¹³ And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. ¹⁴ But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷ "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, ¹⁹ and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants."'"

²⁰ "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him.

There is an internal insurrection in the church; an unseen yet undeniable departure from God's direction. We have a paradox; there is the crave for the security of the Father's house and the seduction of forbidden horizons.

The far country does not begin in a foreign field but in a fractured faith. It is not measured in miles but in mindsets. You can sing and shout on Sunday while secretly starving for secular satisfaction on Monday. The far country is not merely a distant destination but a defiled dispensation. It is not simply a physical departure but a psychological detachment. The far country doesn't begin when you leave the Father's house, but when you lose the Father's heart.

You depart in your mind before you move in your body. You can be in the Father's house and have a fugitive heart.

The problem in the world is not the world. The problem in the world lies in the church. It's in the church where we learn and where we ought to display what order looks like. The world would get in order if the church wasn't out of order.

The far country is not a place, but a mindset. Many people sit in the church in body but not in spirit.

Our text is an amazing story about a father who has two sons. It is evident there was a problem in the household. The younger son's problem was revealed when he got mad and left and the older son's problem was revealed when he stayed (He was jealous).

The boy had a selfish request; "give me what belongs to me." He was the youngest, he skipped the line and was out of order. Some people want to reap all the benefits but don't accept the responsibilities. They want God to give them what belongs to them but not give God what belongs to Him. That's a far country mentality; wanting God to do it for us all the time while we do nothing for Him. Not caring about who is in front of you and just breaks order.

We want to show up to church late and say "At least I'm here." We should never treat God that way. God deserves better than that. Why can't we get to church on time? We're on time for everything else.

Notice "them" in verse 12; the youngest may have asked but the father divided his livelihood to both sons. The father refused to be out of order by giving to the youngest first. Out Heavenly Father is never out of order.

Swift rebellion—the young son got his stuff and left. He was gone in his mind before he went in his body. By the time people tell you they're going, they've been gone.

Sometimes you have to love people enough to risk them not liking you. There comes a time when we've got to let some people in our church go. We don't chase wolves, we chase sheep.

The boy turned his inheritance into cash, he had to sell himself cheap because he wanted what he wanted. Whenever we start desiring what we want, we sell ourselves cheap because we don't want to follow God's direction.

No church should sell itself out for entertainment. If you get people that way you've got to keep entertaining them for them to stay. The church must be careful because some people come just to get what they want, they don't come to stay. Everybody doesn't come to church for the right reason. Far country mentality—as soon as I get what I want, I'm gone.

Verse 20—Showing reconciliation. What made this father run to meet his young son? The father knew his son's condition and wanted to cover him in grace. Thank God for grace!

Thank God for His grace that covers us. We all need the grace of God. Thank God for grace!

Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, February 23, 2025

**We are Saint Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church of Docena, AL**

Where

Our Vision is that of an all-inclusive church, ministering to the needs of all God's people, too transform and empower them through the teaching and preaching of the Word of God.

Our Mission is to progressively pursue the restoration of the spiritual, physical, and social condition of the community as we actively engage in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus the Christ as Savior and Lord.

Our Motto is "Making a Difference in the Lives of Others for the Kingdom of God," which reflects the heart of this church as we address the needs of the church and the community.

We Believe that our society will be best affected through the ministry of the church. We further believe that the church is the best organization of people to rebuild our battered communities. As the church grows, so do the community, the city, the state, and the country. We are going to make a difference: one person, one family, one community at a time, for the Kingdom of God.

www.stmatthewdocena.org

Facebook: St. Matthew Missionary
Baptist Church Docena AL.

Saint Matthew
Missionary Baptist Church

Pastor
Reverend Eddie Washington, Sr.

"We do not have to raise the standard to become the men and women God wants us to be; we simply have to come up to the one He has already set."

Deacon Board

Brother J.W. Henry, Chairman

Brother Steven Anderson	Brother Antoine Palm
Brother Victor Griffin	Brother Wallace Simmons
Brother Ronald King	Brother Lavone Thomas
Brother Roosevelt McCray	Brother Carlos Williams

Unity
March, 2025

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are archived
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