

# Unity

A Saint  
Matthew  
Missionary  
Baptist Church  
Publication

**April, 2025**

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!  
*Psalm 133:1*

# HE IS RISEN

## 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.**

**Palm Sunday  
April 13**

**Good Friday  
April 18**

**Resurrection Sunday  
April 20**

# Let the Word of God Transform You

All sermons preached by Pastor Eddie Washington unless otherwise stated.

## THE CONCLUSION (OF THE WHOLE MATTER) Ecclesiastes 12:8-14

8 *“Vanity of vanities,” says the Preacher, “All is vanity.”*

9 *And moreover, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. 10 The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright—words of truth. 11 The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of scholars are like well-driven nails, given by one Shepherd. 12 And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh.*

13 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:*

*Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all.*

14 *For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.*

The author of the Book Ecclesiastes is Solomon, the King of Israel, the son of King David. In Ecclesiastes 12, Solomon writes the conclusion to the whole matter. He was the only one able to write this book and was qualified to make an assessment on life.

King Solomon wanted people to remember the fact that GOD has a purpose in their lives.

First, GOD wants young people to remember our Creator while still in their youth. Give your best to God while you are still young.

He reminds us that there is no happiness apart from God. Even with all the money in the world does not make you happy apart from GOD. It becomes vanity to think you are happy without GOD.

Second, we have the mind of Christ, we have to live a Biblical life by using Biblical principles. To live a life in a godly manner, understanding the word of GOD is key. King Solomon has imparted knowledge to the people through 3,000 proverbs for us to read. The Bible is the guide we use to order our steps

In this passage, God shocks us back into reality. He uses Solomon to give us words of wisdom to drive His (GOD’s) point home. First, we need to fear GOD. Second, we need to keep GOD’S commandments.

Today we put more emphasis about what we think of GOD’S word. We need to keep God’s word in context and live by application. Church has become too common. Jesus Christ is not common.

Jesus Christ is coming back looking for a Church that He recognizes. He will not be looking for a Church that the world wants. Jesus Christ will be looking for a church GOD wants. The Church needs to order its steps in what GOD wants and what He wants is for us to live by His Word.

*Submitted by Sister Bess Griffin, Sunday, March 2, 2025*

# ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD Acts 16:25-31

<sup>25</sup> But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. <sup>27</sup> And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. <sup>28</sup> But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup> Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup> So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

For a Christian, the greatest motivation in life is to want to please God. It's not about what you do, it's about why you did it. The motivation behind your action is more important than your action.

In today's passage, everything happening is to the glory of God. All the things Paul suffered through was to the glory of God. *John 4:34 Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work."* In the life of a believer, everything ought to be to the glory of God; to have the kingdom mindset, making decisions to the glory of God.

*Acts 16:23-24 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup> Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.* Paul and Silas were whipped to the glory of God. They could have stopped it at anytime because they were actually Roman citizens but they had a divine spiritual mission.

We have to understand what it means to live our lives to the glory of God. We ought to be able to love one another and get along with one another. Sometimes we have to suffer for the cause of fellowship. Saying, "I've reached my limit!" is a contrast to living to the glory of God. Paul and Silas endured the stripes and prison to the glory of God.

Verse 25—midnight—the difficulties of life seem to always come at night. As children of God, it's about how we deal with midnight. Paul and Silas decided it was a good time to sing and pray. Meanwhile, the other prisoners were listening.

When you name the name of Jesus, not just in good times but also in times of adversity, the world is watching. If we're going to live by faith, we've got to learn how to honor God even in difficult times. We should pull one another through.

Ask yourself, "How do I give glory to God in my circumstances?"

Verse 26—If you order yourself in difficult times, you can see God show up and show out.

Verses 27 and 28— In spite of the fact that the doors were open and the chains broken, they were all there for the glory of God.

Earnest prayer will say, "Not my will, Lord, what would You have me to do? Here I am Lord, send me."

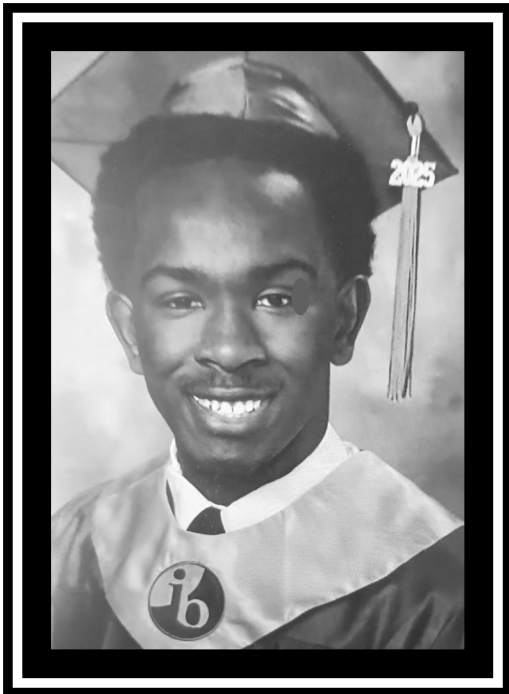
*Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, March 9, 2025*

**Church Saint Matthew Missionary Baptist**

**Welcome**

Annie Daniels Miley

Join us on  
**Resurrection Sunday,**  
**April 20th at 10:30am**  
**for our Children's**  
**Easter Parade and**  
**Program**  
**and**  
**Youth Presentation**



**CONGRATULATIONS, PEYTON!!!**

Peyton Kidd is a Senior at Jefferson County International Baccalaureate (JCIB) High School with a 3.9 gpa.

In recognition of academic achievement and excellence, Peyton has been granted membership in The National Society of High School Scholars.

After graduating from high school, Peyton plans to attend the University of Alabama/ Birmingham (UAB) where he will pursue a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

We love you, Peyton, and are proud of you!

Gwen and Lavone Thomas 4/2/16	Karen and Red McKinley 4/10/75
Erica and Reggie Perry 4/5/99	Bertha and Otis Thornton 4/24/82

M	O	E	Q	K	Y	M	B	U	A	X	R	R	E	T	<b>CRUCIFIXION</b>			
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B	F	B	R	M	A	R	H	A	O	L	G	E	S	N	CRUCIFY	PILATE		
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S	Q	R	C	C	S	D	D	I	R	B	O	C	T	E	EARTHQUAKE	ROOSTER CROWS		
B	A	E	T	U	M	E	E	A	D	A	G	R	E	D	EXECUTED	SANHEDRIN		
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O	V	E	Y	N	I	U	E	E	L	I	L	A	G	N	COMMANDED	JOANNA		
L	C	O	M	M	A	N	D	E	D	E	R	R	O	U	DARKNESS	LIGHTNING		
A	C	T	S	M	A	G	T	N	M	K	E	I	J	Z	EARTHQUAKE	MARY MAGDALENE		
S	D	I	M	M	A	G	R	H	N	B	T	P	R	E	EMMAUS	NAZARENE		
F	E	R	K	E	Z	U	D	E	G	C	C	E	C	H	GALILEE	RESURRECTION		
B	R	I	A	L	K	E	S	A	E	I	S	L	L	T	GREETINGS	SABBATH		
D	O	P	C	A	R	S	L	R	L	T	L	S	J	A	GUARDS	SALOME		
T	R	S	T	S	E	I	R	P	F	E	I	H	C	B	HEAVEN	TOMB		
Y	N	Y	H	U	F	U	W	J	O	A	N	N	A	B	HOLY SPIRIT			
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# Let the Word of God Transform You

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## GOD'S MERCY Lamentations 3:22-25

22 *Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassions fail not.*

23 *They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

24 *"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!"*

25 *The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him.*

The most important attribute of God that we experience on a daily basis in His mercy. Mercy suits our case. Mercy is the attribute of the very nature and character of God. He is merciful, great, long suffering, abounding in goodness and truth.....

God's mercy is about receiving something we don't deserve and not getting what we do deserve.

Not one of us can stand before God and make any kind of demand based on our merit. We can't say, "God, I did this, or I did that, so, You owe me." God doesn't owe anybody anything. That's why we thank God for mercy.

Mercy is the character and nature of God and it ought to be the character and nature of His people. We ought to be merciful people.

*James 2:13 For judgment is without mercy to the one who has shown no mercy. Mercy triumphs over judgment.*

In his prophecy, Jeremiah sounded out concerning God's judgement over Israel and ultimately, God moved in judgement. In our test today, Jeremiah mourns over the desolation of Jerusalem, over the fall of that great city. Jeremiah was so busy mourning Israel, the people of God, he forgot that God was in control.

In this day and time, we have to be mindful that God is still on the throne. No matter what our situation is, no matter what we are going through, we have to be mindful that God is still in control. Jeremiah lost sight of that for a moment.

*Lamentations 3:17-18 You have moved my soul far from peace; I have forgotten prosperity. And I said, "My strength and my hope Have perished from the Lord."* Here, we see Jeremiah's despair. He is at his lowest of lows. Jeremiah had forgotten God's position, plan, and purpose. We have to be careful not to forget about who God is and what He does.

Ultimately, God will judge a nation. However, in His judgement, we are still able to see His mercy. We ought to be able to declare God's mercy no matter the situation or circumstance. When we get in a situation that's so awful that you can't see God or we believe God cannot see us, we're in bad shape.

Jeremiah felt that God had checked out, he felt like all hope was gone. In America, it may seem out of control for us, but God has it under control.

Sometimes, we could be going through so much that we may get to the point we don't feel like going to church. Then we need to do like David and give praise for the Lord's mercies by saying,

*"Bless the LORD, O my soul; And all that is within me, bless His holy name!" Psalm 103:1*

God has deposited something in us and we have to stir it up sometimes. Every now and then, when our backs are up against the wall, we have to stir up the gift in us. Too often we allow the gift that God put in us to lay dormant.

*Lamentations 3:20-21 My soul still remembers And sinks within me. This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope.* Jeremiah was down and out and had gotten to a place where he couldn't see God. So, Jeremiah had to redirect; he had to remember. It's good to remember what God has brought us through.

It's through God's mercy that we are not consumed. Mercy eludes to the fact that we're *guilty and we need hope.*

Too often we take the mercies of God for granted and we don't treat His mercies with gratitude. Instead of embracing God's mercy, we complain.

God is merciful and has compassion. He remembers His people and His promises; that's why, as children of God, we don't have to worry. We just have to learn how to trust God. We can count on Him when we can't count on ourselves. God will see us through when we can't see our way. Whatever the situation may be, we have to put our faith and trust in the Almighty God.

*Submitted by Sister Victoria Williams, Sunday, March 16, 2025*

## GOD'S GRACE Ephesians 2:4-10

*4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.*

**Grace** is God's unmerited favor and loving kindness towards man. A gift that cannot be earned not is it deserved. **Mercy** is the gift of forgiveness or withholding punishment, God gives to all of us, when we do not deserve it.

Sometimes **grace** and **mercy** are used interchangeably. But understand they are similar but not the same. Putting it simply, grace is getting what we don't deserve, and mercy is not getting what we do deserve. Grace is God's unmerited favor and mercy is God underserved care and compassion.

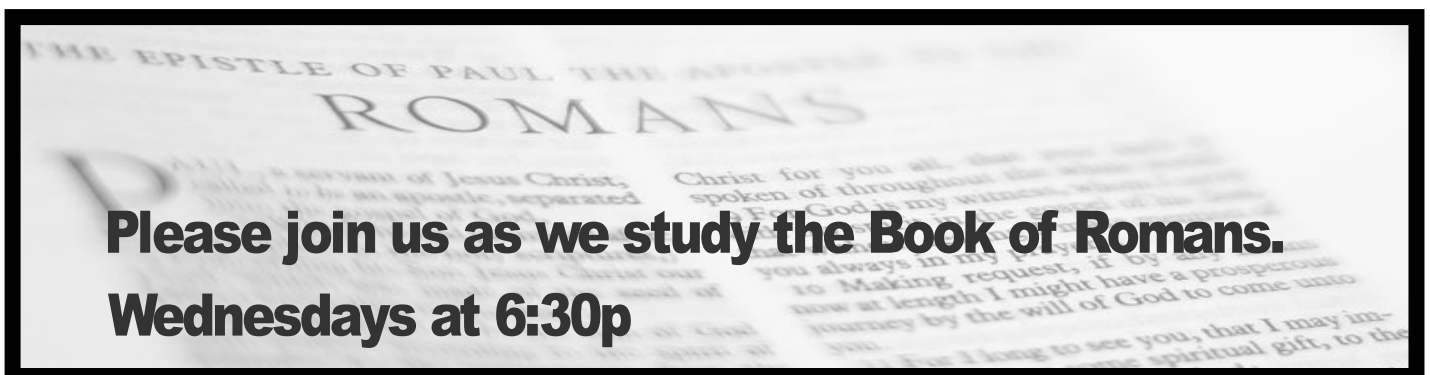
Pastor Washington stated, "Mercy supersedes grace." If not for mercy, we could not have gotten to grace. We may not always recognize or see God's Mercy in our lives. It's there! When we say hurtful things to one another, wish harm on someone, lie, cheat, steal, kill, schemes against someone, always complaining, disagreeable because we can. We are still here! That's God's mercy.

The Old Testament shows that grace is **not earned** it is **given**. The New Testament starts with God's mercy. God showed the **ultimate mercy** on us when he sent his son **Jesus Christ** to die on a cross for our sins. Although we didn't deserve this act of compassion, God showed us unconditional love anyway.

The apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." **For we are saved by grace not by worth.**

There would be no relationship where an **Awesome God** can extend gracious gifts to us if, at first, God did not mercifully extend a relationship with us beyond what we deserve.

*Submitted by Sister Casandra Patterson, Sunday, March 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, to 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](http://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**

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

**Unity**  
April, 2025

**Sunday  
Sermons  
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