



# EVANGELICAL GLOBAL OUTREACH CHURCH (EGOC)

**(House of Wonders)**



## GOD'S WORD FROM THE PULPIT

*A Compilation of 2024 Summarised  
EGOC Messages*

**2024**

**MY YEAR OF SUFFICIENT GRACE  
2 CORINTHIANS 12:9**

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



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## 2023 Crossover Watchnight Message

**Date:** 31 December 2023

**Title:** Prepare for the year of sufficient grace

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 12:9a

**Introduction:** Let us reflect and meditate on the word 'but' at the beginning of this verse. The word 'kai' in Greek can mean 'but,' 'and,' 'even,' or 'also.' In my view, it is better to use 'but' because it fits well with the context of the entire passage. There are three important things that you must bear in mind this year.

**1. God can answer your prayer in varieties of ways.** The conjunction 'but' here signifies contrast. It is a negation of what was said in the previous verse. Paul was asking for a different thing, but God wanted a different thing for his life. God can answer our prayers by saying yes, no or wait. God can also give you more than you requested.

**2. God wants you to surrender totally to His will.** The Almighty God in His sovereignty and supremacy can overrule in specific aspects of our lives. This is the year of total surrender to the will of God. It is the year that God must have His way (cf. Isaiah 55:8-9).

**3. God is always ahead of you in all matters.** God was ahead of Paul in everything. God is also ahead of you in all matters. He will not take you to where His grace cannot sustain you. Some things may not work out the way you thought they should be. Take the outcome by faith and see what the Lord will do at the end. Therefore, stop struggling with God!

**Conclusion:** How prepared are you for the year of sufficient grace? Having this understanding can help you throughout your lifetime. First, God can answer your prayer in varieties of ways. Second, God wants you to surrender totally to His will. Third, God is always ahead of you in all matters.

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



### Theme of the Year 2024

But He said unto me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

(Repeat)

For when I am weak, then I am strong.

(Repeat)

For this is my Year of sufficient grace.

For this is your Year of sufficient grace.

For this is our Year of sufficient grace.



**Date:** 7 January 2024

**Title:** God speaks in times of challenges

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 12:9

**Introduction:** The main point of this message is that God often speak to us in every situation including times of challenges. This verse calls our attention to Paul's experience about two thousand years ago. It encourages us to do three things whenever God is speaking to us.

**1. Recognise God's voice in times of challenges (First part of verse 9a).** Recognising God's voice in times of challenges is the first thing that you should not miss. Paul recognised that it was God Almighty talking to him. It was not the devil, his own voice within him or the opinions of others around him. It is important to be able to discern God's voice from other voices when you are going through crises and challenges of life.

**2. Reflect on God's voice in times of challenges (Second part of verse 9a).** Reflecting on God's voice in times of challenges is the second thing that you should not miss. Paul heard and reflected on God's statement that His grace was sufficient for him. He was able to write it down in his second epistle to the Corinthians. He also pondered on the implication of this statement for his situation.

**3. Respond to God's voice in times of challenges (Third part of verse 9a and 9b).** Responding to God's voice in times of challenges is the third thing that you need to do. This is about acting on the word of God. God told Paul that power is perfected in his weakness, and he acted on these words. Power is perfected in weakness in God's divine arrangement. We are weak in the flesh, but we are strong in Christ alone (cf. Philippians 4:13).

**Conclusion:** God spoke loud and clear during Paul's time of challenges in the first century. The same God is still speaking to us in our times of challenges today through varieties of ways. Therefore, you should recognise God's voice, reflect on God's voice, and respond to God's voice.

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



**Date:** 14 January 2024

**Title:** God's sufficient grace in times of trials

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Introduction:** Sufficient grace means adequate or enough divine supply for whatever is needed. Let us examine five wisdom nuggets about God's sufficient grace in times of trials in this passage.

**Wisdom nugget 1. There is a reason for every trial that we go through (verse 7).** There is a reason for every trial that we go through. Paul understood the reason for the thorn in his flesh. He repeated it twice in this verse that it was to keep him from exalting himself. God wanted to keep him humble. God may allow us to go through trials to keep us humble and on track for the assignment that He has for us.

**Wisdom nugget 2. No number of prayers can remove the pain designed for our development (verse 8).** God shaped the character of Paul through the pain. He developed the ability to rely on God, stayed in the place of prayer, and trusted that God was working for his good. In my view, some spiritual and self-development cannot happen without pain and life challenges.

**Wisdom nugget 3. God's grace is sufficient to carry us through the pain (verse 9a).** God replied, Paul that He has supplied him with as much grace as he needed for that specific situation. Power was perfected in his weakness through the sufficient grace that he has received.

**Wisdom nugget 4. God will accomplish His purpose in us through the pain (verse 9b).** Paul experienced transformation as the power of God continued to dwell in him. He considered himself as nothing without God. He recognised his unworthiness without the righteousness of Christ being imputed on him.

**Wisdom nugget 5. Our pains can end in unspeakable joy (verse 10).** Paul changed his tone in verse 10. He expressed delight in weaknesses, insults, distresses, persecutions, and difficulties that he suffered for the sake of Christ. He expressed strength in his state of weaknesses because of the enabling power of Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** The grace that God has made available for you in Christ is immeasurable and inexhaustible. You cannot finish it. Therefore, I encourage you to prayerfully reflect on these five nuggets as you navigate your way through life this year.

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

*When I am weak,  
then I am strong*  
2 Corinthians 12:10



**Date:** 21 January 2024

**Title:** What is Caesar's and What is God's?

**Text:** Mark12: 13-17; Matthew 22:15-22: Luke 20: 20-26

**Introduction:** The Pharisees claimed to be spiritual leaders of the Jews, therefore Jesus held them accountable. Unlike any other prophet or teacher Jesus' opposers could not find anything to pin on Him but what they did agree on was Jesus being a threat and to bring charges against Him. The issue is that of the rightness of paying taxes. Let us ask three questions 1. What Is Caesar's? 2. What Is God's? 3. What should Christian citizens do?

**The Image on Coins** Mark12: 16

What Is Caesar's? This denarius coin used to pay taxes bore the image of the emperor with the inscription of "Divine Caesar" and "High Priest." These inscriptions were offensive to the Jews and some objected to paying taxes, calling it idolatry. The image was not a demand for worship, it was just a demonstration of ownership. Jesus did not side with those to opposed Roman taxation nor with any group that wanted the Messiah to bring political indolence to Israel. The Old Testament scriptures make reference to different or varying forms of taxation.

**The Image on Humans** Mark 12:17; Genesis 1:16; Psalm 24:1

What Is God's? The image on all humans is God's. Jesus turned the discussion from the initial question to the more deep-seated issues behind it. His answer, serves as a reminder to focus on our relationship with God. Like Ceasar's image, the image of God suggests ownership of us and more important to make sure we are pleasing God than the human government. We belong to God, not the government. The things of God embrace everything since "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof or all that is in it". The Roman Empire as strong and massive did not encompass all the earth, all roads did not actually lead to Rome. The heavens and the earth are both subject to Almighty God's sovereignty.

**The Christians as Citizens** Philippians 3:10; Matthew 17:25-26

What should Christian citizens do? We no longer have a Ceasar but we have a form of government. As Christians we cannot cut ourselves off from the affairs of the world, but we should never compromise our beliefs and values as citizens of a country. Most counties have made things simple by taxes deducted from the income source or by employer. In addition, we have VAT on goods and services purchased. The taxing ways are that everyone pays taxes except the rulers' children. Not paying taxes is not an option because it will bring reprisals.

**Conclusion:** We should obey God rather than man. Jesus did not say to give Caesar everything he asks but promoted an attitude of respect and honour toward a government. This respect takes the form of obeying the law, paying taxes, and honouring our leaders and elected representatives.

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



**Date:** 28 January 2024

**Title:** Beware of the way, error and doctrine of Balaam

**Text:** 2 Peter 2:1-3, 15-16; Jude 11; Revelation 2:14

**Introduction:** Balaam, the money-loving prophet, serves as a prototype for false teachers and prophets who will arise in the last days and trouble the faithful believers in Christ Jesus. What is the way of madness that will characterise these false prophets and teachers in the last days? An examination of the historical account of Balaam reveals how his errors, ways and doctrine are applicable to our churches today.

**Balaam ignored God's warning:** Balaam was a strange combination of a "true" prophet and fortune-teller through whom God spoke truth to Israel's enemies. He was hired by Balak king of Moab to curse the children of Israel for a fee. Balaam loved the wages of unrighteousness and was rebuked for his iniquity (2 Peter 2:15-16).

**Eating things offered to Idols:** False prophets and teachers encourage and promote unrighteousness like Balaam who advised King Balak to have the women of Moab invite the Israelite men to the sacrifices for their gods, a form of pagan worship that included ritual prostitution. Balaam through the Moabites women unleashed the wrath of the LORD upon the children of Israel through his evil counsel. Moses called it the "Peor incident" (Numbers 25:1-3;31:15-16).

**Balaam's love of Money:** Balaam was offered money for his services, which was typical practice in those days (Numbers 22:7; 15-21). However he disobeyed the command of God. We are given the gifts of the Spirit freely by God's grace, and we are not to charge for passing on His blessings (Matthew 10:8). Offering spiritual benefits for money is called "the way of Balaam." This practice is rampant in churches today because multitudes are enticed to believe and obey those who promise health and wealth in exchange for a "seed-faith" offering.

**Balaam became a soothsayer (Joshua 13:22):** There are some indications Balaam was initially a believer in the LORD, he, however, began taking delight in selling his true prophetic gift (Numbers 22:32). The king of Moab sent to Balaam, the rewards of divination, the diviner's fee (Numbers 22:7). Faithful prophets of God do not practice sorcery or take diviner's fees. The Apostle Paul calls sorcery a work of the flesh in Galatians 5:20.

**Balaam's lack of love for the truth:** One major aspect of the error of Balaam is a lack of love for the truth (Numbers 22:18). The soldiers who witnessed the resurrection knew the truth but took money to lie about it (Matthew 28:11-15).

**Balaam-type Prophets in Today's Church:** They mix Christianity and occult practices and fall into the error of Balaam.

**Conclusion:** The Apostle Peter warned against "the way of Balaam," (2 Peter 2:15), Jude against "the error of Balaam" (Jude 11) and John against "the doctrine of Balaam" (Revelation 2:14). The LORD evidently considers these warnings necessary and appropriate for Christians today.

Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness. 2 Peter 2:15



**Date:** 4 February 2024

**Title:** Dimensions of sufficient grace in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ

**Text:** Luke 2:52

**Introduction:** The Bible confirmed that Jesus increased in four different areas: wisdom, stature, favour with his heavenly father and favour with humans. This is what sufficient grace is all about. Let's focus on how the life and ministry was sustained by sufficient grace in seven important areas.

**1. Sufficient grace to escape the sword of the enemy (Matthew 2:19-23).** King Herod decided to kill all the boys that were born in Bethlehem and throughout Judea when the wise men from the east refused to go back to him with information about the location of baby Jesus. Consequently, many innocent boys fell under the sword of Herod, but Jesus had a great escape.

**2. Sufficient grace to triumph over the devil (Matthew 4:1-11).** The temptation of Jesus was evidence of His triumph over the devil. He used the word of God three times to counter all the lies and tricks of Satan (Matt 4:1-11). Jesus also triumphed over the devil in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-46).

**3. Sufficient grace to display a higher level of wisdom (Mark 12:13-18; Matthew 21:23-27).** Jesus was born into a fragmented Jewish community in the first century. The implication is that for every statement that Jesus made during His earthly ministry, one or more groups were offended. Jesus displayed exceptional wisdom in the way He responded to their questions.

**4. Sufficient grace to deal with betrayal (Luke 22:47-49; Matthew 26:15).** Jesus experienced different levels of betrayal during His earthly ministry. Many disciples deserted Him because His teachings were too hard for them (John 6:66-68). Judas Iscariot betrayed Him with a kiss (Luke 22:47-49). Simon Peter and other disciples also deserted Him before He was crucified (Matthew 26:56).

**5. Sufficient grace to stand alone when it matters (Matthew 26:36-46).** Jesus took His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. He came back to the disciples and found them sleeping. Jesus went back to pray alone (Matthew 26:36-46). He manifested sufficient grace to courageously carry on with the assignment when there was no one to support Him.

**6. Sufficient grace to forgive (Luke 23:34a; John 20:21).** Jesus exercised forgiveness towards many people during His earthly ministry (Mark 2:5; Luke 7:48; John 8:11). Jesus also displayed sufficient grace to forgive despite His pain on the cross of Calvary (Luke 23:34a).

**7. Sufficient grace to die gracefully (Luke 23:46; John 19:30).** Jesus lived His life on earth with sufficient grace and died gracefully. In addition, He exhibited sufficient grace to die as an achiever.

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ during His incarnation was an embodiment sufficient grace. It is now your turn to exhibit sufficient grace.

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



**Luke 2:52 KJV**

*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.*

**Date:** 11 February 2024

**Title:** Walking and working together in agreement in marriage

**Text:** Amos 3:3

Can two walk together, unless they are agreed? (Amos 3:3 NKJV).

**Introduction:** The original context of Amos chapter 3 is about the relationship between Yahweh and Israel. The main point of this prophetic message is that without friendship there is no fellowship and without concord there is no communion. The warning in Amos chapter 3 is that Israel should not expect God to walk with them or continue to show them divine favour when they are walking contrary to His will. For this teaching, I would like to suggest that this is applicable to marriage and other relationships. Let us examine four things about walking and working together in agreement in marriage in this verse.

**1. The rhetorical question on agreement in marriage (first part of verse 3a).** The word 'can' is significant. It calls our attention to the appearance of the rhetorical question at the beginning of the verse. A rhetorical question is 'a question asked in order to make a statement, that does not expect an answer.' The rhetorical power of the word forces the reader to think.

**2. The plurality and communality of agreement in marriage (second part of verse 3a).** The word 'two' in this part of the verse is not about one individual. This reminds us that agreement in marriage is a collective effort between husband and wife. Children can also be involved in some agreement. The desired outcome can only be achieved when the people involved are on the same page concerning their pursuit.

**3. The ingredient of agreement in marriage (third part of verse 3a).** The phrase 'walk together' is an important ingredient for agreement in marriage. There is a strong connection between 'walking together' and 'agreement' in Amos 3:3. How can two or more people with different personalities, needs, expectations, aspirations, and destinations walk together? They will have to make this happen through sacrificial agreement.

**4. The necessity and conditionality of agreement in marriage (verse 3b).** 'Unless they are agreed' in verse 3b draws our attention to the necessity and conditionality of agreement in marriage. The condition for walking and working together in marriage. It is also necessary to walk and work together to achieve the results of agreement. Therefore, you cannot be happily married or achieve more in your life without agreement.

**Conclusion:** The agreement in your marriage is the gospel you are preaching to your children. My understanding of the workings of this verse with the lenses of agreement in marriage shows that we need to know the answer to the rhetorical question on agreement, recognise the plurality or communality of agreement, use the ingredient of agreement, and accept the necessity and conditionality of agreement.

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





**Date:** 18 February 2024

**Title:** When grace speaks

**Text:** Daniel 6:1-28

**Introduction:** Grace is the free unmerited favour that we receive from the Lord to accomplish what is beyond our human capacity. Let us examine the life of Daniel and how grace spoke through his life in six specific areas as recorded in this passage.

**1. Our position becomes enviable when grace speaks (verses 1-9).** King Darius appointed Daniel among 120 satraps over the kingdom. He also appointed three commissioners to supervise these satraps and Daniel was one of them. Daniel's performance motivated the king to come up with a plan to appoint him over the entire kingdom. Other commissioners and satraps envied Daniel because of the prospective promotion.

**2. We fear God more than human threats when grace speaks (verses 10-11).** Daniel decided to fear God rather than the threats of human authority. He entered his house and opened his windows toward Jerusalem when he learnt that the document prohibiting prayers has been signed into law.

**3. People that matter will attend to our case when grace speaks (verses 12-20).** The enemies reported that Daniel has violated the king's injunction by offering prayers to Yahweh instead of the king. The king set his mind on rescuing Daniel until sunset looking for any loophole in law. The king ordered that Daniel be thrown into the lions' den, but he prayed for him.

**4. Laws can be reversed for our benefits when grace speaks (verses 21-24).** The grace of God was upon Daniel in the lion's den. The king was so happy about Daniel's safety. He issued another decree that Daniel should be lifted out of the den. The Medo-Persian law was reversed when grace spoke on the life of Daniel.

**5. Unbelievers will testify about our God when grace speaks (verses 25-27).** The unbelieving king Darius testified that the God of Daniel was superior to other gods. He wrote a decree to all the peoples, nations, and populations throughout his empire that they should tremble and fear before the God of Daniel.

**6. We enjoy great success when grace speaks (verse 28).** The grace of God continued to speak on the life of Daniel for so many years. He attracted favour and became very successful in all ramifications. He was able to serve under different administrations with steady promotion in his career.

**Conclusion:** The sufficient grace from God that spoke over the life of Daniel in those days is still speaking today. This grace makes your position enviable, gives you boldness to ignore human threats, connects you with people that matter, ensures that laws and decrees are reversed for your benefits, causes unbelievers to testify about your God, and helps you to enjoy great success.

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



When Grace speaks:  
laws are irrelevant,  
merit is needless,  
connections becomes  
useless & protocols are  
suspended just for your  
sake

**Date:** 25 February 2024

**Title:** The Sheep and Goats Judgement

**Text:** Matthew 25:31-46

**Introduction:** The sheep and goats judgement is about human beings not animals. Judgment is a fact of life, if we break the law, then the society will judge us. If we live immorally or put our bodies at risks of constant strain and stress, then our bodies will judge us. Jesus begins this parable by telling his listeners and readers that He is coming back glorified with angels to set up His kingdom and to judge unbelievers the same way a shepherd separates the sheep from goats.

**The Events of the end times:** Jesus gave a long, multifaceted answer to the disciples' question to include discussions on the destruction of the temple, birth pains, the coming of many false prophets, the abomination that causes desolation, the great tribulation, the Son of Man's coming and Noah and the flood (Matthew 24).

**The Parables of His return:** In His presentation of the unknown day and hour of His return, Jesus told these 5 parables to His disciples: the Parable of the Budding Fig Tree, the Parable of the Thief at Night, the Parable of the Wise and Faithful Servant, the Parable of the Ten Virgins and the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 24, 25). He concluded His answer to His disciples' question by telling them the Sheep and Goats Judgement, 6th parable.

**The Judge on His throne:** The carpenter prophet from Nazareth claimed plainly to be the Son of Man whom Daniel described in his prophecies from centuries before (Daniel 7). Jesus as the Messiah King can be expected to command all the angels of heaven and sit on a throne of judgment that oversees all of human history. In His first coming to earth, Jesus came as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). In The parable, He reveals in His second coming He will be the Judge and King of all humanity.


**The Result of His Judgement:** Separation is the result of Christ's judgement. People will be separated into two groups only, the prepared and unprepared, the righteous and the wicked, the rewarded and condemned, the sheep and the goats. When He returns to earth, everyone here will be brought before the Lord Jesus Christ. The sheep will be saved and the goats represent the unsaved people.

**Conclusion:** The point that Jesus made to His disciples, then and today, is that God's people will love others. Our good works is the result from our relationship to and collaboration with Jesus Christ, the good Shepherd.

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

*The Sheep and Goats Judgement*

*<sup>33</sup> And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:*



**Matthew 25:31-46**



**Date:** 3 March 2024

**Title:** Strategic ways of approaching the throne of grace

**Text:** Hebrews 4:16

**Introduction:** It is difficult to understand this verse without reading it in the context of chapter 4 and the whole book. The main point of the book of Hebrews is that Jesus Christ is superior, and He offers us something better. He is better than the angels and the prophets. His priesthood is better than that of the Old Testament prophets. He is a better high priest with a better sacrifice. Hebrews chapter 4 emphasised that Jesus Christ offers us a better and perfect rest. This verse highlights three important strategies for approaching the throne of grace.

**Strategy 1. Approaching the throne of grace with confidence (verse 16a).** The word 'therefore' invites us to reflect on what has been said before this point (especially verses 14-15). We can approach God with confidence based on the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. We can enter the throne of grace because we have received the privilege of sonship through Christ. We are now joint heir with Christ. We can enter the place of prayer because Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father interceding for us.

**Strategy 2. Approaching the throne of grace with humility in search for mercy (verse 16b).** Mercy is compassion or forgiveness that we show towards someone that is within our power to punish or harm. We cannot stand before the justice of God because our sins are many (Romans 3:23). It is in Christ alone that we receive mercy. This part of the verse shows that those who humble themselves before God will receive mercy. You are positioning yourself to receive God's mercy whenever you humble yourself before God (cf. Matthew 5:7; Proverbs 28:13).

**Strategy 3. Approaching the throne of grace with expectation of help in times of need (verse 16c).** The best place to receive help is the throne of grace. Expressing our helplessness before God and waiting on Him expectantly can unlock new level of grace upon our lives. Grace gives us the capacity to achieve what we cannot ordinarily achieve with our own strength. There is nothing that we cannot do through the grace of God.

**Conclusion:** This passage admonishes us to approach the throne of grace with these three powerful strategies: First is with confidence. Second is with humility in search for mercy. Third is to expect divine help in times of need.

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



**Date:** 10 March 2024

**Title:** Step out of your comfort zone (Part 1)

**Text:** Exodus 3:1-15

**Introduction:** Mount Horeb is another name for mount Sinai. Biblical scholars have attested that it is the same geographical location. Moses ran away from Egypt to Midian when king Pharaoh wanted to kill him. He found a comfort himself in a comfort zone with Jethro. Let us examine five areas where Mount Horeb was a comfort zone for Moses.

**1. Mount Horeb was a place of angelic visitation (verses 1-2a).** Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law. He led the flock through the wilderness and got to Horeb (the mountain of God). The angel of the Lord appeared to him there in flames of fire from within a bush. Nonetheless, God wanted Moses to experience more than angelic visitation.

**2. Mount Horeb was a place of signs and wonders (verses 2b-4).** Moses saw that the bush was on fire, but it did not burn up. It was a surprise for Moses. He went over to see this strange sight. Then, God called Moses by his name three times. God also wants to take you to a place of signs and wonders. He wants to take you to a place of personal interaction with Him.

**3. Mount Horeb was a sacred place (verse 5).** God told Moses to take off his sandals because the place where he was standing was a holy ground. God did not only want you to stand on a holy ground; He wants to make a holy person.

**4. Mount Horeb was a place of revelation (verses 6-9).** God introduced Himself to Moses as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God informed him that He has seen the misery of the Israelites in Egypt. God revealed to Moses that He has come down to rescue the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians with a plan to give them the Promised Land flowing with milk and honey.

**5. Mount Horeb was a place of divine call and commission (verses 10-15).** God commissioned Moses and instructed him to return to Egypt. God said to Moses, 'I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.' Moses thought he was inadequate for the assignment, but God promised to be with him.

**Conclusion:** Moses experienced the above great things at Mount Horeb, yet God wanted him to move beyond them to something better. Mount Horeb was a great place for Moses, but God wants to do more with his life. God told Moses, that this is the time to move forward.

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

### Step out of your comfort zone

Have I not commanded you?  
Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid;  
do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God  
will be with you wherever you go.

**Joshua 1:9**

When God calls us to step out of  
our comfort zones, He is not  
calling us to be comfortable in the  
situation. He is calling us to be  
comfortable with Him and His  
will, despite of our situation.



**Date:** 17 March 2024

**Title:** Step out of your comfort zone (Part 2)

**Text:** Deuteronomy 1:6

**Introduction:** We want to continue our reflection on Mount Horeb. It was a comfort zone for Moses and the Israelites, but God wanted them to step out from that place by faith. Let us examine seven things about Mount Horeb.

**1. Mount Horeb was a place of consecration (Exodus 19:1-12).** Mount Horeb was the place where God set apart the Israelites as a nation for His own pleasure after taking them out of Egypt. The whole of Israel gathered before the Lord surrounding Mount Horeb. They washed their clothes and consecrated themselves for three days in preparation for God to descend upon the mountain.

**2. Mount Horeb was a place of covenant (Exodus 19: 3-6).** God made a covenant with Moses and the Israelites at Mount Horeb. This is what biblical scholars refer to as the Mosaic covenant. The main point of this covenant is that Israel will become a kingdom of priests and a holy nation representing God to the whole world if they obey His commandments.

**3. Mount Horeb was a place of instruction (Exodus 20:1-21; Leviticus 27:34).** Mount Horeb was the place where Moses received the ten commandments on behalf of the Israelites. God gave Moses specific instructions about the construction of the Tabernacle. God also gave the Israelites other instructions at Mount Horeb on what they should do and not do.

**4. Mount Horeb was a place of worship (Exodus 14:4-7).** Moses got up early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of Mount Horeb. He set up twelve stone pillars representing the twelve tribes of Israel. They offered burnt offerings and sacrificed young bulls as fellowship offerings to the Lord. The whole assembly of Israel worshipped Yahweh at Mount Horeb.

**5. Mount Horeb was a place of new experience (Exodus 19:16-19).** Mount Horeb was a place of divine encounter and new spiritual experience for the Israelites. The people saw Moses disappearing into the presence of God. They saw thunder, lightning, a thick cloud of smoke, and heard the voice of God at Mount Horeb.

**6. Mount Horeb was a place of divine provision (Exodus 17:1-7).** The Israelites were walking in the desert and they were thirsty. They complained to Moses about their situation. God commanded Moses to strike the rock at Horeb to give them water to drink.

**7. Mount Horeb was a place of commitment (Exodus 19:8).** The Israelites received the words of God from Moses and pledged to obey the Lord. Mount Horeb was a place of commitment to God and His laws.

**Conclusion:** Mount Horeb was a place of hearing the voice of God. It was a place of signs and wonders. It was a place of achievement. It was a place of refuge. Despite all these things, God said to the Israelites, 'you have dwelt too much on this mountain.' Mount Horeb was a great place for the Israelites, but it is not the promised land.

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

**Date:** 17 March 2024

**Title:** Step out of your comfort zone (Part 3)

**Text:** Deuteronomy 1:6-7

**Introduction:** The Bible is full of different examples of people who stepped out of their comfort zone. For example, Abraham stepped out of his comfort zone in Mesopotamia and travelled to the land of Canaan. Ruth stepped out of her comfort zone in Moab and followed Naomi to Bethlehem in Judea. Jesus stepped out of His comfort zone in heaven, to die for us on the cross of Calvary. Paul stepped out of his comfort zone to preach the gospel across the world in his missionary journeys etc. In this passage, God instructed the Israelites to move away from their comfort zone. Let us examine three important things about stepping out of our comfort zones:

**1. The importance of stepping out of your comfort zone (Deuteronomy 1:6-7).** Stepping out of your comfort zone is important. First, it helps you to avoid stagnancy. The Israelites would have been at the same spot till today if they had refused to step out of their comfort zone. In fact, they would have perished in the wilderness. Second, stepping out of your comfort zone brings glory to God. The Egyptians and the enemies of the Israelites would have rejoiced and asked where their God is if they remained at Mount Horeb. We serve a progressive God, and your progress brings pleasure to Him.

**2. The challenge of stepping out of your comfort zone (Deuteronomy 8:2-3).** Stepping out of your comfort zone is challenging and a lonely journey. Walking out of a comfort zone is usually uncomfortable. It is usually full of difficulties at the beginning. The Bible reported that the Israelites faced many difficulties between their place of bondage in Egypt and the Promised Land. First, they travelled through the wilderness. Second, they faced the giants and many enemies on their way. Third, they fought whenever the need arises. Fourth, they trusted God daily for all their needs.

**3. The reward of stepping out of your comfort zone (Exodus 6:7-8; Joshua 3:1-5:12).** There are different rewards that you can get from stepping out of your comfort zone. First, you will get to your Promised Land and inherit it. The Israelites continued their journey until they entered the Promised Land under Joshua. Second, you will fulfil your destiny. Every plan of God will begin to manifest and come to fulfilment in your life. Third, you will leave behind unforgettable legacies for the coming generations. The Israelites passed the legacy of the land and their worship of Yahweh to the next generation. Fourth, your life will touch many lives positively. Many nations of the world have received the spiritual benefit through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ because the Israelites stepped out of their comfort zone.

**Conclusion:** The Israelites enjoyed their time at Mount Horeb, yet God wanted to move them to the next level. God told the Israelites that they have dwelt on their mount Horeb for too long. I also have this message for you today, you have dwelt on your mount Horeb of comfort for too long.

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



Date: 24 March 2024

Title: The joy of Palm Sunday



Text: Zechariah 9:9-10

**Introduction (verse 9a & b):** The event of the Palm Sunday was so important that all the gospel writers recorded it (Matthew 21:1-11, Mark 11:1-11, Luke 19:28-44 and John 12:12-19). In this teaching, I want us to look at the book of Zechariah 9:9-10 when this event was predicted by prophet Zechariah. In my view, the main point of prophet Zechariah's message is 'rejoice.' He highlighted five reasons why the people should shout for joy about the Messiah. These are the same reasons why you should shout for joy today.

**Reason 1. Rejoice because your King is coming (verse 9c).** The statement 'see, your king is coming' is powerful. Prophet Zechariah wanted his audience to be expectant of the coming Messiah. The King that he referred to in this part of the verse is Jesus Christ. In Ancient Near East and even till today, it is always good news to know that the king/queen is coming. Everyone around wants to catch a glimpse of their leader. It is also an exciting news to know that Jesus is coming (Acts 1:11).

**Reason 2. Rejoice because there is none like your King (verse 9d & e).** Prophet Zachariah highlighted five things that make the King unique. First, He is righteous. Second, He is victorious. Third, He is lowly and gentle. Fourth, He is riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. Jesus fulfilled all these during His earthly ministry. His riding on a donkey symbolises peace and meekness. It is comforting to know that there is no king like our King. No king can match His level of righteousness, victory, lowliness, peacefulness, and meekness.

**Reason 3. Rejoice because your King has won the battle (verse 10a & b).** The prophetic statement here is a reference to the future. All weapons and instruments of war will be useless in the kingdom of Christ. Therefore, rejoice because Jesus has won the battle in heaven, on earth and in the grave. Our King has put Satan under our feet (John 16:33b; Matthew 28:18).

**Reason 4. Rejoice because your King will bring peace to the nations (verse 10c).** The only thing that the world is craving for right now is peace. All the meetings and deliberations of world leaders since World War II has not yielded the peace we are looking for. Our King is the prince of peace. He will bring peace to the nations. Jesus is the only one that can give a lasting peace to the world. He is the prince of peace.

**Reason 5. Rejoice because your King will rule over the nations forever (verse 10d & e).** All rulers and kingdoms in the world have their territories and areas of jurisdiction, but the kingdom of the Messiah will be global without territory. The Messiah will rule over all nations of the world without exception. His kingdom will be forever. The total fulfilment of this promise will happen during the millennial kingdom and throughout eternity where Jesus Christ will rule on the throne.

**Conclusion:** The King we are talking about in this passage is Jesus. This is a day of joy. You should rejoice because your King is coming, there is none like your King, your King has won the battle, your King will bring peace to the nations, and He will rule over the nations forever.

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

Date: 31 March 2024

Title: Jesus is alive!



Text: Luke 24:1-49

**Introduction:** The Easter is a season of joy and hope that reminds us about the love of God. It is also a season to step out and witness about the risen Christ. There are five witnesses in this passage that confirmed that Jesus is alive:

**1. The witness of the angels that Jesus is alive (verses 1-8).** Early in the morning on the first day of the week, some women visited the tomb of Jesus. They saw that the stone covering the tomb was rolled away. They entered but could not find the body of Jesus. Suddenly, two angels appeared and informed them women that Jesus was not there. He is risen.

**2. The witness of the women that Jesus is alive (verses 9-11).** The women who visited the tomb of Jesus went back home to tell the apostles and other disciples the evidence that they saw that Christ is risen and what they heard from the two angels. They persisted and shouted for joy as they witness that Jesus is alive!

**3. The witness of Peter that Jesus is alive (verse 12).** When peter saw the seriousness of the women, he decided to go down to the tomb of Jesus to verify what happened. He saw the strips of linen lying by themselves without the body of Jesus. He went back home as a witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**4. The witness of the two disciples who travelled to Emmaus that Jesus is alive (verses 13-35).** On that same day, two disciples were travelling to a village called Emmaus. They were having a conversation about the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the news of His resurrection. Jesus walked up to them and joined them in the conversation, but they did not recognise Him. The two men persuaded Jesus to stay with them that evening at Emmaus. When they sat at the table to eat, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and began to give it to them. Suddenly, their eyes were opened, and they realised that it was Jesus.

**5. The witness of Jesus about Himself that He is alive (verses 36-47).** As they were discussing the validity of the appearances of Jesus to different people, Jesus Himself stood among them and said, 'peace be with you.' They were afraid thinking they saw a ghost. Jesus encouraged them and showed them the scars on His body to convince them beyond any reasonable doubt. He invited them to touch His hands and feet.

**Conclusion (verses 48-49):** The climax of this story can be found in verse 48. Jesus said, 'you are witnesses of these things.' The angels, the women, Peter and the two disciples who travelled to Emmaus testified that Jesus is alive! Jesus Christ Himself appeared to His followers to confirm that He is alive. The disciples made this bold statement 2,000 years ago that Jesus is alive. We should proudly echo the same statement with exceeding joy that Jesus is alive!

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

### Luke 24:48-49 (NKJV)

• **48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**





**Date:** 7 April 2024

**Title:** The Easter prayer that you must say regularly

**Text:** Luke 23:46

**Introduction (verse 46a).** Let us travel with our sense of imagination to the first Easter. It is interesting that the last statement that Jesus made in human flesh was a prayer. Jesus cried out with a loud voice (Luke 23:46a). Have you ever wondered why Jesus Christ cried out in a loud voice? In my view, He cried out so that it can be an example for us today. It is a unique expression that heaven cannot ignore. Let us consider three things that we can learn from Jesus' prayer in this passage.

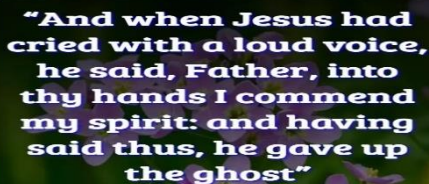
**Lesson 1. Jesus explained His relationship with God the Father (second part of verse 46b).** The word 'father' in this part of the verse is very powerful. It is an indicator of the special relationship between Jesus and the Father. Jesus called on the Father with confidence and assurance. It is your responsibility to always remind God the Father that you have a relationship with Him through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. The starting point to ensuring answered prayer is by acknowledging your relationship with God the Father.

**Lesson 2. Jesus emphasised His understanding of the capacity of God the Father (second part of verse 46b).** Jesus acknowledged the capacity of God the Father to keep all things entrusted to Him. He mentioned something significant about the hands of God. The phrase 'into your hands', implies that this is the safest place. The Bible has lots of things to say about the hands of God. There is salvation in the hands of God. There is deliverance in the hands of God. The hands of God work wonders. What the hands of God cannot do does not exist. The psalmist confirmed that the hand of God can reach him anywhere (Psalm 139:10).

**3. Jesus expressed His willingness to surrender everything to God the Father (third part of verse 46b).** 'I commit my spirit' is a language of surrender. Jesus is the subject here doing the action. No one forced or coerced Him to lay down His life. He gave His life willingly. The lesson we can learn from Jesus is that whatever we surrender to the hands of God will last. In addition, whatever we surrender to the hands of God is safe.

**Conclusion (verse 46c).** The expression of Jesus in this part of the verse is encouraging. He left everything in the hands of the Father. He did not revisit it. You too should follow the example of Jesus Christ by handing over your worries to God the Father through Christ. Jesus said this important prayer during the first Easter 2,000 years ago, 'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.'

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



**"And when Jesus had  
cried with a loud voice,  
he said, Father, into  
thy hands I commend  
my spirit: and having  
said thus, he gave up  
the ghost"**

— Luke 23:46

**Date:** 14 April 2024

**Title:** A divine warning that you should not ignore

**Text:** Isaiah 38:1

**Introduction:** The full story of king Hezekiah's illness can be found in 2 Kings 20:1-11 and Isaiah 38:1-8. We are only going to focus on Isaiah 38:1 for the purpose of this teaching. There are five important things that we can see in this text:

**1. The recipient of the warning (first part of verse 1).** King Hezekiah was the original recipient of the warning in the context of this passage. King Hezekiah (721-691 B.C.) was the son of the ungodly king Ahaz. He became the king of Judah at the age of twenty-five and ruled over Judah in Jerusalem for 29 years. Moreover, we are the ultimate recipients of this powerful warning from the Lord in this verse.

**2. The timing of the warning (first part of verse 1).** The timing of the message was significant. King Hezekiah was on the sickbed when the warning came to him. He was at the weakest stage of his life. Sickness is a fact of life. It is a reminder that we are in this mortal body for a little time. (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

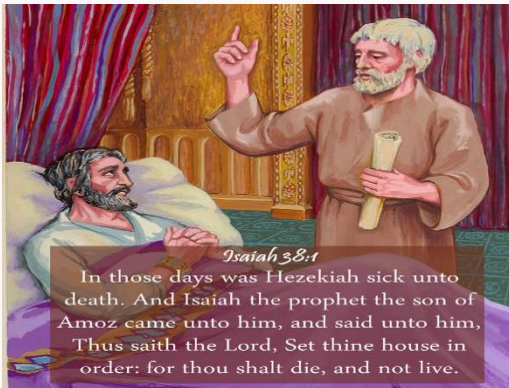
**3. The messenger of the warning (second part of verse 1).** Prophet Isaiah was the messenger sent with this warning. The message given to him was a difficult one, yet he has a mandate to deliver it. Prophet Isaiah was the bearer of the warning some thousands of years ago. God is still raising preachers, pastors, and prophets to deliver the same warning to you today.

**4. The sender of the warning (third part of verse 1).** God sent a message to king Hezekiah through prophet Isaiah. God is still sending messages to His people in the world. Our God is the creator of the heavens and the earth. He is qualified to send warnings and messages to His creation.

**5. The specific warning (fourth part of verse 1).** The specific warning that prophet Isaiah gave king Hezekiah was to set his house in order because he will die. The warning in this part of the verse is not just for king Hezekiah, the warning is for us today.

**Conclusion:** Of course, God added fifteen years to the life of king Hezekiah, but he eventually died. Death is not something we should fear. It is a reality of life that is not negotiable.

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



**Date:** 21 April 2024

**Title:** If Christ is not risen

**Text:** 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

**JESUS IS ALIVE**  
CELEBRATE THE RESURRECTION

**Introduction:** Christianity is the only religion which asserts and teaches that its Founder is still alive today! Christianity claims that its Founder, Jesus Christ, is alive - today (Acts 2: 23-24). Apostle Paul was writing about alternative scenario should this assertion be proven false.

**The Corinthians misconception regarding physical bodily resurrection:** They believed in the physical bodily resurrection of Christ, why should the concept of the physical bodily resurrection of Christians be so hard to handle (v12)? If God raised Jesus Christ, from the dead, it's logical that He can raise anyone from the dead.

**Apostle Paul describes the depressing realities of what life would be like had Christ not risen from the dead - If Christ is not risen, our faith is empty (v14):** Apostle Paul hinges the entire Christian faith on the historical event of Jesus rising from the dead! (Romans 10: 9 -10). Without the bodily resurrection of Christ, Christianity is stripped of its basis and its power!. The Christian faith is based on a claim of truth, inseparable from the resurrection of Jesus.

**If Christ is not risen, our preaching is empty (v14):** If Christ is still dead, do we have any authority for preaching the gospel of Christ? We will not have a gospel without the resurrection of Christ Jesus and we will only have a dead Rabbi, nothing more if Christ was not raised from the dead.

**If Christ is not risen, the apostles would be false witnesses of God (v15):** The apostles, being eyewitness verifiers of Christ's resurrection gave weight to their ministry. In fact, the resurrection was the primary theme of apostolic preaching (cf. Acts 2:24; Acts 3:15; Acts 5:30; Acts 10:40; Acts 13:30-37). As Paul preached the resurrection of Jesus, he evidently appealed to his own eyewitness account of Jesus's post-resurrection appearance (Acts 26:16).

**If Christ is not risen, our faith is worthless and we are still in our sins (v17):** If the One in whom we placed our faith as Saviour never really triumphed over death, what proof do we have that the debt for our sins has been paid? Paul regarded the crucifixion/resurrection of Jesus as essential to the gospel (Romans 1:1-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4) and crucial for the forgiveness of sinners.

**If Christ is not risen, those who have died in Christ have perished (v18):** Every great saint that ever lived, every martyr that ever died for Jesus Christ, every missionary, every pastor, every dear mother and father that put their faith in Christ and has already died, will forever be burning in hell and cursing the God they were deceived if Christ didn't rise.

**If Christ is not risen, we are of all men most miserable (v19):** Without a hope for resurrection and everlasting joy with Christ we all tend to treat this life as a place where we have to squeeze out as much pleasure as we can and take as few risks as we can. A deep abiding confidence in the resurrection is what kept Paul going in this life of radical risk-taking love.

**But Christ is indeed risen (v20):** After undeniable physical appearances, Jesus Christ left this earth, bodily and He promised to return physically (John 14:1-3; Acts 1:9-11).

**Conclusion:** Though it is hard to comprehend, when Christ returns, both the dead in Christ and those who are still live will be transformed in an instant into these new and glorified heavenly bodies that will never die (1 Thessalonians 4: 16-18; 1 Corinthians 15:52; Philippians 3:21; 1 John 3:2- 3).

Preacher: Rev. Emmanuel Ofori

**Date:** 28 April 2024

**Title:** Paul's prayers for the church at Colossae

**Text:** Colossians 1:9-12

**Introduction (verse 9a):** Paul distinguished himself as a prayer warrior and intercessor in the first century. In my view, Paul prayed seven specific prayers for the Christians at Colossae. We can follow the same prayer template as we intercede for ourselves and the church today.

**1. Prayer for spiritual knowledge, wisdom and understanding (verse 9b).** God does not want us to be naïve or be in spiritual darkness. Paul mentioned three important things that should not be missing in our spiritual lives - knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. Knowledge is about information. Understanding is about comprehension. Wisdom is about application.

**2. Prayer for walking in a manner worthy of the Lord and pleasing Him (verse 10a).** This is about living a life that is bringing glory and honour to the name of Jesus. It is about being an example to the people of the world and the believers in word, conversation, charity, spirit, faith, and purity (1 Timothy 4:12).

**3. Prayer for bearing fruit in every good work (verse 10b).** God has given each of us good works to do, and we have a responsibility to willingly carry them out to the best of our abilities. This is the secret of fruitfulness.

**4. Prayer for increase in the knowledge of God (verse 10c).** No one who has ever lived (past and present) has been able to know everything about God. The more we seek to know God, the more we discover that there are many more things for us to know.

**5. Prayer for spiritual strength (verse 11a).** Paul prayed for the Christians at Colossae that they will be strengthened with 'all power' according to God's glorious might. In other words, God will give them the capacity to operate in the supernatural.

**6. Prayer for perseverance and patience (verse 11b).** We need perseverance and patience especially in times of challenges or waiting upon the Lord for something. We need perseverance and patience when we are going through persecution.

**7. Prayer for attitude of gratitude (verses 11c-12).** Paul's point is that understanding our position in Christ should motivate us to always give thanks. One important thing that God expects from us is the attitude of gratitude.

**Conclusion:** The above prayers that Paul prayed for the church at Colossae are relevant for your personal life, family, church, and this country. You should pray for spiritual knowledge, wisdom and understanding; the ability to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord and pleasing Him; the grace to bear fruit in every good work; increase in the knowledge of God; spiritual strength; perseverance and patience; and for the attitude of gratitude.

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



**Date:** 5 May 2024

**Title:** Paul's reflection about himself and the church at Colossae

**Text:** Colossians 1:21-29

**Introduction:** Reflection can be defined as 'a fixing of the thoughts on something or careful consideration'. Paul made five powerful reflections about himself and the church at Colossae in this passage.

**1. Paul's reflection about the description of the spiritual situation of the Colossians before they met Christ (verse 21).** Paul mentioned three things about the spiritual situation of the Colossians before they met Christ. First, they were previously alienated from God. Second, they were hostile in their attitude towards the things of God. Third, they engaged in evil deeds.

**2. Paul's reflection about the description of the new spiritual situation of the Colossians in Christ (verse 22).** Paul mentioned that the Colossians have now been reconciled to God through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Second, they are presented to God as holy.

**3. Paul's reflection about the need for the Colossians to continue in Christ (verse 23).** Paul emphasised the need for the Colossians to continue in the faith which is firmly established in Christ. He challenged them not to shift from the hope of the gospel that they heard when they believed.

**4. Paul's reflection about the mystery of his calling (verses 24-27).** Paul noted that he was made a minister of the New Testament church according to the commission that God granted to him for the benefit of the Colossians and other churches. He also emphasised that the content of the gospel that he is preaching is a mystery that has been hidden from the past ages and generations.

**5. Paul's reflection about the goal of his ministry (verses 28-29).** Paul mentioned that his strategy of proclaiming Christ is through admonishing and teaching every person with all wisdom. He emphasised that the goal of his ministry in collaboration with his partners is to 'present every person complete in Christ.'

**Conclusion:** Paul took the Christians at Colossae through a journey of reflection. First, reflection about the description of their spiritual situation before they met Christ. Second, reflection about the description of their new spiritual situation in Christ. Third, reflection about the need for the Colossians to continue in Christ. Fourth, reflection about the mystery of his calling. Fifth, reflection about the goal of his ministry.

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

*He is the one*  
**WE PROCLAIM,**  
*admonishing and teaching*  
*everyone with all wisdom,*  
*so that we may present everyone*  
*fully mature in Christ.*

**Date:** 12 May 2024

**Title:** A call to serve

**Text:** Mark 10:45

**Introduction:** Service can be defined as actively helping others or serving the needs of others with intentionality. In my view, this verse was the testimony of Jesus Christ about Himself. There are three things about Jesus that we must reflect on in this verse:

**1. Jesus came to the world to serve (verse 45a).** All the prophecies about Jesus Christ before His birth pointed to the fact that He would come to the world to live a life of service. Prophet Isaiah specifically referred to Him as a suffering servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12). The primary purpose of His incarnation focused on service. His agreement to set aside His glory in heaven and step down into our darkness was an act of service. Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden. The entire human race became enemies of God as a result. There was need for someone to reconcile humanity to God. Only Jesus was qualified to answer the call to serve us this way (Philippians 2:5-11).

**2. Jesus lived a life of service during His incarnation and earthly ministry (verse 45b).** Mark did not have time to discuss the genealogy of Jesus as a king like Matthew did because He came as a servant. Mark recorded that Jesus lived a life of service through preaching, teaching, healing, casting out demons, feeding the poor, and performing many miracles (Mark 1:32-34). I can imagine that Jesus served His earthly parents, family members, and community when He was younger. He served His heavenly father throughout His earthly ministry (John 9:4).

**3. Jesus died on the cross as a servant (verse 45c).** The sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary was the greatest act of service. He was accused of offenses that He never committed. All our sins and punishments were transferred to Him on the cross. He paid the price with the gruesome death. He died in active service at His post. According to Booker Washington, 'those who are happiest are those who do the most for others.' Similarly, Gordon Hinckley observes that 'one of the great ironies of life is this: He or she who serves almost always benefits more than he or she who is served.'

**Conclusion:** We have been able to use the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as a template to reflect on call to serve. First, Jesus came to this world to serve. Second, Jesus lived a life of service during His incarnation and earthly ministry. Third, Jesus died in active service. He is currently serving us by preparing a place for us (John 14:1-3). He will be our king throughout eternity. Therefore, let us walk in the footsteps of Jesus by living a life of service.

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

*For even the  
**Son of Man**  
 did not come to be served,  
 but to serve,  
 and to give his life  
 as a ransom for many.*  
 Mark 10:45



**Date:** 19 May 2024

**Title:** The tribute coin for redemption

**Text:** Matthew 17:23-27

**Introduction:** The temple tax collectors had asked Peter if Jesus pays the didrachma. It was based on Exodus 30:11-16, which required every adult male to pay half a shekel as one-time ransom money towards the building of the tabernacle. The rich were not to give more, nor the poor less. Later, a similar tax was levied for the rebuilding of the temple (Nehemiah 10:32-33).

**Jesus, The Omniscient Son:** Matthew 17:25

Peter's answer was affirmative but on returned, Jesus anticipated him, showing thereby His omniscience. Christ is witness to all our words and thoughts. Jesus put the issue back to Peter that Kings don't charge tax to their family, but to their subjects. Peter had initially confessed Jesus as Christ, the Son of the living God, (Matthew 16:16). Peter's life now lags behind his confession by the wrong impression of His Master to the tax collectors. What we say or do must magnify the Lord and not diminish His glory, Romans 12:2.

**Jesus, The Humble Servant:** Matthew 17:27; John 6:38 ; Luke 19:10. Jesus Christ willingly submitted Himself to an ordinance that made Him seem more a subject than God's Son. Lord Jesus, greater than the temple (Philippians 2:7) stooped to pay the tax like everyone else did 'lest we should offend them'. Christ would forego His own rights in order to serve the good of others, He came not to do His own will, but the will of His Father and to seek and save the lost. The lesson is God's Son did not insist on His rights but gave them up in order to avoid putting a stumbling block before ignorant sinners, we can do the same.

**Jesus, The Omnipotent Sovereign:** Matthew 17:27; Genesis 18:14

Just to show Peter again He is Sovereign Lord, Jesus commanded him to go to the sea, cast a hook, and take up the fish that first comes up, open its mouth, to find a piece of money. This miracle proved the Lord's omniscience, for He knew of this fish in the sea with a coin in its mouth. Moreover, it proved the Lord's omnipotence, for He made it come to Peter's hook.

**Jesus, The Redeemer Saviour:** Matthew 17: 27

The coin that Peter found in the fish was worth twice what was necessary, double the value of the didrachma. As the Lord of heaven, He had stooped to pay for the sins of people like Peter, so that their spiritual debts might be paid in full. The miracle speaks of divine resources given to the King of the universe's sons. It anticipated the supply of blessings through the death and resurrection of Christ. The ultimate resources are the riches of salvation in Christ Jesus.

**Conclusion:** Believers have an amazing status. We are the King's sons and have intimacy with God, not by our own merit but through fellowship with Jesus, God's own Son. Those who are still outside of Christ should come to Him for redemption to become His adopted sons.

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

**MATTHEW 17:27**

Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

**Date:** 26 May 2024

**Title:** The perfect two

**Text:** Romans 12:12

**"Rejoicing in hope; patient  
in tribulation; continuing  
instant in prayer;"**

Romans 12:12 KJV

**Introduction:** Romans 12 is part of the letter of Apostle Paul to the Roman Church. The chapter covers consecrating our bodies to God and our Christian duty. We will concentrate on the exhortation given in verse 12.

**Rejoicing in hope** (verse 12a). Rejoice and hope are 'the perfect two' for a believer. Do you show great joy or are delightful when you are hoping for something to happen in your life? Then you are rejoicing in hope and God is worshipped and honoured by our hope and trust in Him. If you are a believer, rejoice because of the hope you have in Christ. In Him, we have hope despite our circumstances because He has promised us victory. You can find rest in God when you put your hope in Him. We know that even if our circumstances seem negative now, brighter days are up ahead for us. Why? Because God is a good God, and His love for us is everlasting and unailing (1 John 5:4-5; Hebrews 3:6; Titus 3:7; Psalm 62:5; Romans 15:13).

**Patient in tribulation** (verse 12b). Patient and tribulation are also 'the perfect two' for a believer. Are you forbearing and persevering? Are you able to accept or tolerate delays, problems, or suffering without becoming annoyed or anxious? Then you are patient in tribulation. If you are a believer, remember that tribulations, sufferings, problems, distress and afflictions do not last forever (2 Corinthians 4:17). When we patiently go through tribulations which are for a season, then when it is over the glory of God will shine in our lives. God is served, not only by working for Him when He calls us to work, but by sitting still quietly when He calls us to suffer. Lack of patience in the life of Saul led him to perform an unlawful sacrifice in Gilgal and to the witch of Endor, 1 Samuel 13 & 28. When you wait upon the Lord, there is hope, freedom, transformation and salvation (Psalm 62:1-2; Isaiah 48:10-11).

**Faithful in prayer** (verse 12c). Faithful and prayer are also 'the perfect two' for a believer. Are you loyal, devoted and steadfast in prayer? Are you continually seeking wisdom, guidance, help and strength? Then you are faithful in prayer. If you are a believer, make prayer your lifestyle and trust that God answers prayers. By praying we serve the Lord. When you do not see an answer to your prayer, do not stop praying, do not deny God the opportunity to intervene in your life but be faithful in prayer. Pray for God's wisdom, strength, leading, and confirmation always and steadfastly. And as He moves upon the matter, salvation, deliverance, healing and freedom will come (Ephesians 6:18; Luke 18:1; 1 Thess. 5:17; Col. 4:2; Psalm 56:8-9). By praying faithfully and steadfastly we respect and honour God and He will honour us with answers to our prayers.

**Conclusion:** To live above our circumstances, let us follow the exhortation of Apostle Paul in Romans 12:12, do not quit when things are hard. The rain of God's grace will continue to drop on you and you will serve God faithfully by rejoicing in hope, by being patient in tribulation and by being faithful in prayer.

Preacher: Pastor Ore Oni





**Date:** 2 June 2024

**Title:** Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Part 1

**Text:** 2 Kings 2: 14-17; Luke 9: 28-36

And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said,

**Where is the Lord God of Elijah?**

and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. **2 kings 2:14**

**Introduction:** Elisha was Elijah's successor. Elijah had gone, and the question in Elisha's mind as he took up Elijah's mantle and walked to Jordan's bank, Is Elijah's God with me? To seek positive evidence that God was with him, Elisha struck the waters with the mantle and immediately they were divided. The onlookers saw the power of God. God was indeed with prophet Elisha. Elijah's God is our God we are assured that:

**God will keep us faithful and loyal**

Hebrews 13:5-6; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 4:18; Jude 24. God's grace was sufficient for Elijah, it will be sufficient for us. He was surrounded by apostasy caused by King Ahab and Jezebel's ungodly reign. They did that which was not right in God's eyes and led the people astray. Elijah experienced loneliness as the opposition to Ahab's atrocities. God's power kept him true to the end.

**God will supply our every need**

1 Kings 17:2-16; Matthew 6:25-34. Luke 13:10-11. God sent bread and flesh when Elijah was by the brook Cherith, meal and oil for the widow's household at Zarephath. Jesus used five loaves and two fishes to feed the 5,000, seven loaves and fish in caring for the 4,000 and there was leftovers. 1 Pet 5:7 We can cast all our cares on Jesus. He set a crippled woman free from infirmity of 18 years and insists we all come for rest.

**God will work miracles for and through us**

1 King 17 - 2 Kings 9. The life and ministry of Elijah were full of miracles: The Drought. Fed by Ravens. Increases the widow of Zarephath meal and oil. Raises the widow's son. Victory over the priests of Baal. The rain comes back. Fed by an angel, twice. A gentle whisper of God at mount Sinai. The dogs eat Jezebel. Divides the Jordan River. Elijah carried by whirlwind into heaven in chariot of fire. God cannot change and still performs miracles. God will work through us.

**God will answer our prayers**

James 5:16-18. God answers the earnest and sincere prayer of any believing Christian, and the illustration given is of Elijah praying that it might not rain, and then praying again that it would. Elijah's God is our God. God will answer our prayers of faith in Jesus' name

**God will be gracious and kind to us**

Elijah was not faultless and did fail, but so do we; and the same God who was so gracious and forgiving and restored Elijah will deal with us just as graciously. Elijah trusted God and saw an amazing demonstration of God's power and authority.

**Conclusion:** The world is waiting to see visible evidence that God is alive and active. When unbelieving and skeptical men and women see the power of God operating in the lives of His people and in His Church then they will fall at His feet in worship and faith. That will be revival.

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

**Date:** 9 June 2024

**Title:** Quicken me, O Lord, for Thy name's sake

**Text:** Psalm 143:11



**Introduction:** The word ‘quicken me’ means to bring to life, speed up, accelerate, step up, hasten, stimulate, excite, or stir up something in me that will bring glory to God. It can also mean preserve, restore and revive as translated in other Bible versions. In Ezekiel 37:1-11 the valley of dry bones came alive and became a great army because the word of God was spoken. Today God will quicken us and take us to the next realm of understanding. God will quicken our families so that there will be unity, togetherness and fellowship. Children oppose their parents when they are not quickened. Likewise, husbands and wives are not “one flesh” if they are not quickened. It is the spirit that quickens; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (John 6:63). Jesus Christ explains that the flesh, or physical body, is not what gives life, but rather it is the spirit that gives life.

**God will quicken us so that there will be revival** (John 14:6;5:21): The more of the word of God you hear, the more you will be quickened. The Father and the Son will also quicken us so that anything that is dead spiritually will come alive.

**The Holy Spirit will quicken us** (John 6:63): The Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life, so that we can be useful, helpful, fruitful and accomplish for Jesus Christ.

**God quickens us by His word** (Psalm 119:25,107,154): Ps 119 mentions ‘quicken’ 11 times. God quickens us in order to keep us on the godly path and preserve a people who call upon Him.

**God quickens us by His lovingkindness and tender mercies** (Psalm 119:88,159): To aid us, bring about revival and the preservation of our lives, and God gets all the glory for it.

**God quickens us by His righteousness** (Psalm 119:40): God’s quickening will associate us with His righteousness, His tender mercy (Psalm 119:156), and our joy (Psalm 85:6). Our relationship with God the Father is the righteousness received by faith in Jesus Christ His Son.

**God will quicken us so that we will remain in His path** (Psalm 119:37): God quickens us to facilitate our walk with Him by faith. Without faith we cannot please God.

**God can quicken our thoughts** (Psalm 42:11): He quickens our hearts when we are pulled by the enticements of the world, so that we remain faithful to His Word (Psalm 80:18).).

**Conclusion:** We can ask God in prayer to quicken us. As children of God we are expected to be quickened by God. When we pray God will quicken us to see and hear exactly what He sees and hears, we will not see and hear things like man. We should pray for the quickening of our bodies. For Your name’s sake, O Lord, quicken our bodies, our efforts, our finances, our intelligence, our achievements...

Guest Preacher: Pastor E.A. Bamgbola



**Date:** 16 June 2024

**Title:** Living for Christ in a post-Christian culture (Part 1)

**Text:** Colossians 3:1-11

**Introduction:** Many scholars today would agree that we are living in a post-Christian culture because the church has lost the privilege and influence that she used to have especially in the West. Apostle Paul gave the Colossian Christians some solutions in this passage on how to handle their issues in the first century and live for Christ. We can also draw from the same solutions today.

**Solution 1. Set our minds on things above (3:1-2).** Paul instructed the Colossian Christians to set their minds on the things that are above. The verb translated as 'keep seeking' in the present tense implies that it should be an ongoing action. This is a real way to grow as Christians. This is about living our lives with eternity in perspective.

**Solution 2. Recognise that your life is now hidden in Christ (3:3-4).** Paul emphasised that the Colossians have participated in the death, burial, resurrection, and current life of Christ. You too must recognise that your life is now hidden in Christ by the virtue of your conversion. Your life is now secured in God's hands.

**Solution 3. Always remember that the wrath of God is coming on the ungodly (3:5-7).** Paul instructed the Colossians to put to death sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed, and idolatry etc. He went further that the wrath of God is coming upon those who do these things because they are evidence of disobedience to God.

**Solution 4. Put off the old nature and old ways of life (3:8-9).** Your old nature refers to your character, habits, and way of life before you met Christ. Paul's statement implies that the Colossians were already working to put off their old nature, and he wanted them to continue with the process (continuous sanctification).

**Solution 5. Put on the new nature and be renewed in the image of your creator (3:10-11).** The new self is the new status that we have in Christ after our regeneration. We are positionally sanctified and justified through Christ. We become new people with new nature and our spirits are joined to God's. This new self is being renewed regularly.

**Conclusion:** We can live for Christ in this post-Christian culture by setting our minds on the things above; recognising that our lives are now hidden in Christ; remembering that the wrath of God is coming on the ungodly; putting off the old nature and our old ways of life; putting on the new nature; and being renewed in the image of our creator.

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



**Date:** 23 June 2024

**Title:** A man sent from God

**Text:** John 1:6

**Introduction:** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. When the Old Testament closed with the prophet Malachi, the Jews waited for not one but two people to come. Their great hope focused on the coming of the Messiah. But they also looked for his forerunner, the one mentioned in Isaiah 40 who would “prepare the way of the Lord”.

**The identity of the person:** Malachi 4:5.

The next to the last verse of the Old Testament contains a clear reference to the coming of John the Baptist: “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord”. Apostle John does not speak of his education, his pedigree, or his gifts. It was enough to know he was sent from God. Are you sent by God or by yourself?

**The solitude:** Luke 1:80; 3:2.

John the Baptist was born in unusual circumstances. His parents were an older couple, Elizabeth and Zechariah. He survived in the wild on his own for many years living off whatever water he could find plus locusts and wild honey. The years of solitude prepared him for his ministry. John’s time alone with God gave him the strength to preach without fear or favour.

**The minister:** Matthew 11:7-8. John, a voice in the wilderness witnessed the Light, wore a camel’s hair garment and preached by River Jordan. His message was if people don’t repent, they would go to hell. John stood out from the crowd, he had integrity, he said what he meant and meant what he said.

**The clarity and courage:** Luke 3:7.

John knew who he was, **the forerunner**. He knew his message: **Repent!** He knew his purpose: **Prepare the way for the Lord**. He understood that Israel stood in need of a major spiritual reformation. John didn’t care about popularity or fitting in with public opinion. He called the Pharisees a “generation of vipers”. Herod listened to John even when John rebuked his sin.

**The ultimate price:** John delivered God’s message boldly, kept the faith and finished the race. He pointed to Jesus Christ, changed the world, and then he was beheaded for telling the truth.

**God’s way is always through sent men:** To the world that perished, he sent Noah. When he wanted to raise up a new nation, he sent Abraham. When he wanted to deliver that nation from Egypt, he sent Moses. He then sent Joshua to lead the nation into the Promised Land. Much later, he sent David to be their greatest king. When he wanted a man in Babylon, he sent Daniel. When the Lord wanted the walls rebuilt in Jerusalem, he sent Nehemiah.

**Conclusion:** We need a generation of preachers with the integrity, humility and courage of John the Baptist. Does God have anything to say through you? Tell it as it is.

Guest Preacher: Rev John Ibidokun



**Date:** 30 June 2024

**Title:** Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Part 2

**Text:** 2 Kings 2: 14-17; Luke 9: 28-36

And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, **Where is the Lord God of Elijah?** and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. **2 kings 2:14**

**Introduction:** Elijah's translation to heaven separated him from Elisha and was a striking loss to him and the Church of God. Their exercises and achievements are patterns to the people of God to follow Jesus through faith and patience so that we too can inherit God's promises. God, the same yesterday, today, and forever, is our hope, comfort and confidence in all generations. We need to be reminded "**ELIJAH'S GOD IS OUR GOD**" especially in situations:

**When we have experienced the sorrow of separation and bereavement.** Elisha knew Elijah was to leave him, but that did not lessen the blow when it actually happened. When bereavement comes to us, we need to experience the power, presence and sufficiency of our God. Elijah's God, is our God of comfort. 2 Corinthians 1:3 Humans are composed of body, soul, and spirit. We suffer sorrow / distress in a unique "three-dimensional" way, past, present and future. John 11:11-35 Lazarus was sick and died but God raised him from the dead.

**When we are about to undertake some new responsibility in service.** Elisha was Elijah's successor; the responsibility was great and he felt inadequate and insufficient for the task. God who wonderfully used His servants all down the ages is with us to bless and use us. Moses felt inadequate. Gideon was the youngest in the smallest family. David asked who his father's house was. Isaiah was a man of unclean lips. 2 Cor 12:9 God's grace will be sufficient for us.

**When we are confronted by obstacles and problems which defy human solution.** Elisha faced the Jordan river Elijah had crossed by performing a miracle. The same miracle-working God will give us grace and faith to overcome our obstacles, challenges and solve our problems. In Acts 12:6-17 God intervened when Peter was captured and imprisoned to be beheaded. In Acts 20:9-12 Eutychus went to sleep and fell out of a window and died. God brought him back to life. In Mark 5, the man possessed with a legion of demons, the woman with the issue of blood and Jairus' daughter were healed. Hebrews 13:6 God helps when other solutions fail.

**When we are surrounded by unbelievers, sceptics and enemies of the Lord.** Elisha had to face the skepticism of the sons of the prophets (2 Kings 2:16-18), and the mockery of the many false prophets. Be reminded and encouraged that Elijah's God is your God. In Daniel 3: 6-30 Meshach, Shadrach & Abednego demonstrated faith and obedience to God in the face of incredible danger. The Lord will deliver us from evil men, their plans, schemes and deception. The soldiers who bound them and threw them into the burning fiery furnace perished.

**When we need to let others see that our faith is working.** The student prophets witnessed that the spirit of Elijah rest on Elisha. In Acts 3:6 Peter and John showed it isn't silver and gold that people need most, but the demonstration of our faith in Jesus and the saving grace of God.

**Conclusion:** ELIJAH'S GOD IS OUR GOD.

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

**Date:** 7 July 2024

**Title:** Living for Christ in a post-Christian culture (Part 2)

**Text:** Colossians 3:12-25

**Introduction:** This is the most difficult time throughout history to stand up as a Christian without being judged or persecuted. Yet, Christ wants us to live for Him in this post-Christian culture. Apostle Paul mentioned five more ways to live for Christ in whatever situation we find ourselves in this world in verses 12-25.

**1. Put on Christ-like qualities (3:12-14).** The Christ-like qualities that we are to put on include being compassionate, kind, humble, gentle, and patient, enduring with one another, forgiving each other just as the Lord forgave us, loving others sacrificially with the love of Christ and embracing the unity among believers.

**2. Allow the peace of God to rule in your heart and be thankful (3:15).** Paul emphasised that the peace of God should be the basic principle by which the Christians at Colossae should govern and judge their lives. He reminded them that they were called to live a life of peace.

**3. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you (3:16).** Paul instructed the Colossians to allow the message of Jesus Christ to dwell among them richly. This can be achieved through sound teaching, wise admonition of one another, use of psalms, singing of hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing wholeheartedly to God with gratitude.

**4. Do everything in the name of Jesus (3:17).** Paul is challenging the Colossians that Christianity is life that should be lived according to the moment-by-moment guidance of the Holy Spirit. In the same way, we should do everything according to God's plan for our lives.

**5. Make your Christianity practical through your relationships (3:18-25).** Paul gave some examples of how to practicalise our Christianity through our relationships. First, he instructed wives to submit to their husbands. Second, husbands should love their wives without bitterness. Third, children should obey their parents in the Lord. Fourth, parents should nurture their children. Fifth, servants should serve their masters with great dedication.

**Conclusion:** Living for Christ is one of the important things that we must do irrespective of the situation where we find ourselves in this post-Christian culture. Therefore, we should put on Christ-like qualities; allow the peace of God to rule in our hearts and be thankful; let the word of Christ richly dwell within us; do everything that we do in the name of the Lord; and make our Christianity practical through our relationships.

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

Put on therefore, as the  
elect of God, holy and  
beloved, bowels of  
mercies, kindness,  
humbleness of mind,  
meekness, longsuffering;  
Colossians 3:12



**Date:** 14 July 2024

**Title:** Devotion to things that pleases God

**Text:** Colossians 4:1-6

Let your conversation be  
*always full of grace,*  
 seasoned with salt, so that you may  
*know how to answer everyone.*  
COLOSSIANS 4:6

**Introduction:** Pleasing God means making conscious efforts to delight Him through our words and actions or engaging in things that are acceptable to Him. My reading of this passage helped me to understand that Apostle Paul mentioned seven things that he wanted the Christians at Colossae to devote themselves unto. These should also be our focus of devotion in these end-times.

**1. Devotion to justice and fairness (verse 1).** Slavery was common in the first century, yet Paul encouraged slave owners to exercise justice and fairness. They should show compassion or benevolence in their treatment of fellow human beings. This is a message to those in positions of authority in our contemporary world.

**2. Devotion to personal prayers (verse 2a).** Personal prayer helps us to express our personal burdens and petitions to the Lord. Oswald Chambers refers to it as 'the exercise of drawing on the grace of God.' Sometimes, it involves groanings which cannot be uttered with human words. These are the prayers that get urgent attention in heaven.

**3. Devotion to prayer of thanksgiving (verse 2b).** Paul encouraged the Colossian Christians to be alert in the attitude of thanksgiving. Giving thanks in everything does not mean that everything around us is pleasant without life difficulties. Nonetheless, we still find a reason to be thankful in whatever circumstances we find ourselves.

**4. Devotion to intercessory prayer (verses 3-4).** Paul motivated the Colossian Christians to devote themselves to intercessory prayers. This is about standing in the gap and making petitions on behalf of others within and outside the church. We can arise and pushback the forces of evil through prayer.

**5. Devotion to seeking godly wisdom (verse 5a).** Wisdom generally means the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgement or the quality of being wise. Wisdom is the right use of knowledge. Godly wisdom is a gift, distinctive, practical, tangible, priceless, God-centred, Bible-centred and found in Christ (cf. James 3:17).

**6. Devotion to making the most of opportunities (verse 5b).** Paul instructed the Colossian Christians to make the most of the opportunity available to fulfil their purpose on earth and reach out to others with the gospel. It is our responsibility to do the same today.

**7. Devotion to speaking gracefully (verse 6).** Paul cautioned the Colossian Christians to be mindful of what they say and how they say it. They should ensure that their speeches are constructed with grace as though seasoned with salt.

**Conclusion:** God is challenging us today to devote ourselves to justice and fairness, personal prayers, prayer of thanksgiving, intercessory prayer, seeking godly wisdom, making the most of opportunities, and speaking gracefully. Our lives and community will be better if we devote our time and energy to these things.

Date: 21 July 2024

Title: The handwriting on the wall

Text: Daniel 5: 25-28

Daniel's Interpretation

Daniel 5:25-28

•MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN =  
numbered, numbered, weighed and  
divided

**Introduction:** These are the words **Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin** that the hand of God wrote upon Belshazzar's palace wall in Babylon. We can say today they are the words of God for everyone to see and to hear in the last years, days and hours of this world. The words of God's judgment addressed to all men concerning this present world of sin and pride.

**The word of the living God.** Daniel 5:1-5; 25-28

**Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.** It is folly to continue a life of drinking and dancing before the word of God's judgments? The truth is your life, your breath is in God's hands and your ways are before the living God and He must be glorified in you, either by eternal salvation or in eternal damnation? Are you ready to stand before God? Are you ready for Christ's return?

**The world power of the time.** Daniel 5:6-9

Babylon was the world power at that time. It was the kingdom that had destroyed Jerusalem and taken God's people captive and into exile, it was in its last hours. It was a prefiguration of the anti-Christian kingdoms established today in opposition to God's kingdom and His Son.

**The enemy at the walls.** Daniel 5:1-4

Belshazzar made a great feast for his lords. Babylon at that very moment was staggering at the brink of total defeat. Outside of the walls of Babylon stood the enemy soldiers of Persia and Medes. God's judgments were upon the Babylonian kingdom, its realm was toppling, yet the king Belshazzar was having a banquet, doubly drunk with absolute power and excess of wine.

**The profanity of the things of God.** Daniel 5: 2-5

King Belshazzar was a man who showed contempt for God and profaned the things of God. He did not give due respect to the holy things of God. He commanded that the vessels that King Nebuchadnezzar had taken from God's temple in Jerusalem be used for the party.

**The reminder by prophet Daniel.** Daniel 5:10-23

Summoned that night before King Belshazzar, Daniel reminded that God must be magnified, revered and respected. Belshazzar had fallen back into the pride of man. His power, ego and position dumbed his senses and his heart was lifted up against the Lord of heaven.

**The judgement of God.** Daniel 5:24-30

**Mene, Mene, Tekel, Upharsin.** The handwriting of God also appears over the world today in judgments and catastrophes. **Tekel.** means, Thou art weighed in the balances and found wanting. God has weighed man out. **Upharsin.** The kingdom is divided. Man as a sinner is found empty and guilty before God. Man shall be broken in pieces.

**Conclusion:** At death, the sinner's days are numbered and finished; after death is the judgment.

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





**Date:** 28 July 2024

**Title:** The LORD gave Israel a saviour

**Text:** 2 Kings 13:4-5, 22-23

And THE LORD GAVE ISRAEL A SAVIOUR, so that they went out from under the hand of the Syrians: and the children of Israel dwelt in their tents, as beforetime.

2 Kings 13:5

**Introduction:** There is nothing good about being oppressed. Oppression is a prolonged cruel and unjustified treatment by the oppressor. The oppressor exploits and systematically harms a person, family, clan, an ethnic group or nation who has no freedom. When the Devil and his agents steal, and kill, and destroy, then they are oppressing. Jesus Christ came that we may have life, and have it more abundantly. God is not pleased with oppression. He hears and delivers from all oppression when we call on Him. From the passage, we can observe 5 facts.

**God hears and answers:** 2 Kings 13:4a, Isaiah 59: 1-2, 1 Timothy 2:5

Do not let your sins and trespasses separate you from God, our Father. You can come to Him like the prodigal son returned to his father. You can come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ.

**God sees and knows:** 2 Kings 13:4b, Exodus 2:23-27, 3:7

God saw, heard, and knew of the plight of Israel in Egypt. Their cry was due to the harshness of their taskmasters. Your afflictions and oppression are known to the Lord. He will hear your cry and will deliver you from the hand of the taskmaster and oppressor.

**God gives and saves :** 2 Kings 13:5a, Judges 2:11-16

God provided a way out for Israel, a saviour and deliverer. He brought Israel out of Egypt by Moses and into a new land by Joshua. Moses' personal exodus from Egypt would be repeated through the nation's exodus from bondage into a wilderness where God provided for their needs. God later gave Israel 13 judges to deliver them from the hand of oppressing nations.

**God restores and resettles** 2 Kings 13:5b, Luke 13: 10-17, Genesis 26:18-26

When Jesus attended a synagogue to fellowship on a sabbath day, a woman came to Him and was relieved of her 18-year bodily infirmity, an oppression by Satan. Bodily infirmities, unless very grievous, should not keep us from fellowships on the Lord's days. Jesus Christ knew of the synagogue ruler's opposition to Him and to His gospel, but He spoke the word, and put forth His healing power that set sinners free and the woman was restored to health.

**God is gracious and keeps covenants:** 2 Kings 13:23, Ruth 1:1-6, Acts 4:12

God the father, Almighty Jehovah has a covenant with the Messiah, God the Son. It is a covenant of salvation and deliverance by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the anointed one. God was gracious to Naomi and her daughter-in-law, Ruth. God kept His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, through Boaz, Ruth's husband and kinsman redeemer.

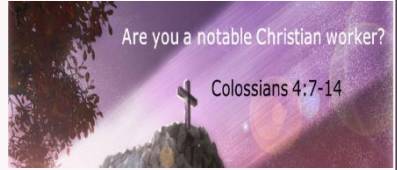
**Conclusion:** God has given us a saviour, Jesus Christ to save from the hold and oppression of sin. God Emmanuel wants to be with us, dwell amongst us and fellowship with us. God wants to deliver us from all oppression and set us free from Satan's enslavement.

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

**Date:** 4 August 2024

**Topic:** Becoming a notable Christian worker

**Text:** Colossians 4:7-14



**Introduction:** A notable Christian worker is the one whose service for the Lord is unforgettable and worthy of recognition. Apostle Paul mentioned eight Christian workers in this passage and their contributions to his ministry.

**1. Paul's description of Tychicus (verses 7-8).** Paul mentioned five things about Tychicus. First, he was a beloved brother. Second, he was a faithful servant. Third, he was a fellow bondservant in the Lord. Fourth, he was Paul's mouthpiece to bring information to the church at Colossae. Fifth, he was an encourager.

**2. Paul's description of Onesimus (verse 9).** Paul mentioned three things about Onesimus. First, he was a faithful brother with unquestionable character. Second, he was a beloved and precious brother. Third, he was also Paul's information bearer. In other words, whatever he said about Paul and his ministry was authentic.

**3. Paul's description of Aristarchus (verse 10a).** Paul's reference to Aristarchus as his fellow prisoner was powerful (cf. Acts 27:2). He accompanied Paul on his journey to Rome and to the end. He was not officially imprisoned, but he was with Paul throughout his imprisonment.

**4. Paul's description of Mark (verse 10b).** Paul described Mark as a matured Christian that is qualified to instruct other Christians. In addition, he was a worthy ambassador that should be received the same way that they would receive Paul.

**5. Paul's description of Justus (verse 11).** Paul mentioned two things about Justus. First, he was among the few converted Jews that worked with Paul. Second, he was a great source of encouragement to Paul and the team.

**6. Paul's description of Epaphras (verses 12-13).** Paul mentioned three things about Epaphras. First, he was a bondservant of Christ Jesus who was willing to serve selflessly. Second, he was a prayer warrior and intercessor. Third, Paul publicly testified that Epaphras had a deep concern for the brethren at Colossae and other places.

**7. Paul's description of Luke (verse 14a).** Paul used the emotive word 'beloved' to describe Luke the doctor. He was notable for looking after the medical needs of the team. He used his medical expertise to support Paul's ministry.

**8. Paul's description of Demas (verse 14b).** It is significant to note that Paul did not say anything to describe Demas or mention his name with enthusiasm. This was the same Demas that eventually left Paul 'because he loved this world' (2 Timothy 4:10a). In my view, Demas came across as a fringe member of the team.

**Conclusion:** Apostle Paul said different things about Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, Justus, Epaphras, Luke and Demas respectively. It is important for you to evaluate your life and contributions to God's work in the light of these brethren.

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



**Date:** 11 August 2024

**Title:** Paul's last message to the Colossian church

**Text:** Colossians 4:15-18

**Colossians 4:17 KJV**

*And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.*

**Introduction:** The beginning of the epistle of Colossians draws the reader into the book, and Paul weaved into the end words that he wanted the reader to remember most. This teaching explores four things about Paul's last message to the Colossian church:

**1. The sender of the last message (verses 15-16, 18).** Verses 15-16 are filled with salutations to the brothers and sisters in the church at Colossae and its environs. These salutations are typical of Paul. He specifically expressed his greetings to the brethren at Laodicea. Paul also acknowledged Nympha and the church that was meeting in her house. In addition, Paul instructed the Colossian church to read the epistle publicly and loudly among themselves as well as the in the church of the Laodiceans. They should also read his letter that was coming from Laodicea at that time. He confirmed in verse 18 that he wrote the greetings with his own hand amid his imprisonment.

**2. The recipient of the last message (verse 17a).** The phrase 'tell Archippus' in verse 17a shows that he was the recipient of the last message to the Colossian church. Paul commanded the brethren in the church to give the message to Archippus. The identity of Archippus can be found elsewhere in Philemon verses 1b-2. Dr Ralph Wilson mentioned that Archippus was a Greek Orthodox icon, and a warrior for Christ. He was one of the house-church leaders in Colossae. He was so influential to the extent that the legacy of his ministry continued after his death.

**3. The content of the last message (verse 17b).** The content of the last message to Archippus was to see to the ministry that he has received in the Lord. We can see three key things about this message. First, Archippus had a responsibility to oversee or guard the ministry. This was common knowledge to Paul, the church at Colossae and Archippus. Second, Archippus must recognise that the ministry does not belong to him. He received it directly from the Lord perhaps through prophecy and laying of hands to serve in the church and his community. Third, Archippus must acknowledge that the functionality of his ministry is in the Lord. In other words, the relevance of this ministry is in Christ alone. I agree with Dr Simeon Oladokun that this message was 'personal, public, pointed, and compelling.'

**4. The outcome of the message to Archippus (verse 17c).** The outcome of Paul's message to Archippus is that he should make the necessary effort to fulfil his ministry. The Greek *plērois* (you may fulfil) means to 'make full,' 'accomplish,' 'bring to completion that which was already begun', 'complete,' 'finish,' or 'carry out the work given to him by the Lord' etc. Some scholars have suggested that Archippus was probably hesitating about a specific assignment that God has called him to do. Nonetheless, Paul expected him to press forward towards the right direction.

**Conclusion:** Life and ministry can be compared with a marathon. It is important to start, courageously remain in the race and finish it in style. The Bible says, 'better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof' (Ecclesiastes 7:8a).

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

**Date:** 18 August 2024

**Title:** A hand touched me

**Text:** Daniel 10:1-21

**Introduction (verses 1-9).**

The biblical narrator confirmed that Daniel who was also called Belteshazzar received a vision in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia. The message was true and deep, but God gave him the grace to understand the vision. There are three instances when a hand touched Daniel in this passage. This is the kind of touch that you need in your life today. Let us examine the significance of this touch.

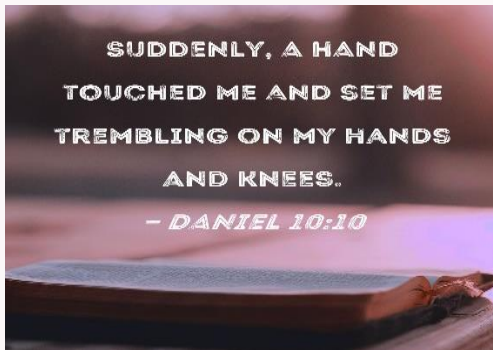
**1. The hand that causes you to tremble (verses 10-14).** Daniel claimed that a hand touched him and shook his hands and knees. The angel spoke very highly of Daniel and confirmed that he was sent to him. This statement and the unique experience caused Daniel to tremble. He encouraged Daniel not to be afraid because God has answered his prayer since the first day. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia was standing in his way for twenty-one days until God sent angel Michael to step in.

**2. The hand that causes you to speak out (verses 15-16).** Daniel turned his face to the ground and became speechless when he heard the statement of the angel. He was also overwhelmed with the vision that he couldn't talk. Daniel reported that someone who resembled a human touched his lips. Then, he was able to open his mouth and spoke out.

**3. The hand that strengthens you when you are weak (verses 17-21).** Daniel disclosed that the one with human appearance touched him again at his weakest moment. The angel also challenged Daniel not to be afraid. He declared peace on Daniel and instructed him to be courageous. Then, Daniel testified that he felt strengthened.

**Conclusion:** 'A hand touched me.' This was the confession of Daniel some thousands of years ago. First, the hand caused him to tremble. Second, the hand caused him to speak out. Third, the hand strengthened him when he was weak. The hand that touched Daniel in those days is still touching many people today.

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



**Date:** 25 August 2024

**Title:** When God gives you a vision

**Text:** Daniel 10:1-2

**Introduction:** A vision can be defined as a God-given mental impression of what can be or what will happen in the future. It is usually received while a person is awake and conscious. There are five important things about the vision that God gave to Daniel in this passage:

**1. The timing of the vision given to Daniel (verse 1a).** The vision was given to Daniel in the third year of Cyrus king of Persia. The implication is that the vision that God gives is usually released according to His divine timing.

**2. The nature of the vision given to Daniel (verses 1b, 5-8).** Daniel mentioned that the vision was true, the vision was about the great conflict between light and darkness, the vision was understandable, and it was a specific vision revealed to him alone (verses 5-8).

**3. The travails of Daniel before the vision (verses 2-3).** Daniel claimed that he went through a season of agony and mourning for three weeks (21 days). He did not eat any food or drink any wine. He did not use any ointment throughout that period. Daniel was an old man who lived to see the terrible experiences of the Jews in exile.

**4. The location of Daniel when the vision came (verse 4).** Daniel mentioned that he was by the bank of the great river Tigris. This was probably around the location where the Babylonians forcefully requested the captives from Judah to sing the songs of Zion (Psalm 137:1). Daniel positioned himself to receive from God at this location.

**5. The content of the vision revealed to Daniel (verses 9-21).** The angel confirmed to Daniel that God has answered his prayers. He gave Daniel some eschatological information about what will happen to God's people in the future. He reassured Daniel that the captivity of God's people will soon come to an end. The details of the vision can be found in Daniel chapter 11.

**Conclusion:** The Lord who revealed mysteries to Daniel in those days is still revealing things to His children today. Therefore, you should recognise the timing of the vision; understand the nature of the vision; travail and prevail in the place of prayer; reposition yourself to receive from God; and seek to understand the content of the vision that God is revealing to you.

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



**Title:** Praise to Victory – Entering the promise land

**Text:** Joshua 1

**Your praise is the key to winning the battle:** The instruction is to march once around the city for six days but seven times on the seventh day. God's strategy and His way are different. Seven priests with seven trumpets of rams' horns praised and magnified the Lord before the ark. Satan cannot stand your praise to God. There is no need to grumble and complain. When the trumpet sounded the army shouted and Jericho walls collapsed. Your walls of sicknesses, debt, failure, spiritual oppression, childlessness, will collapse like the wall of Jericho.

**Big lesson:** 1. We must learn to magnify God in difficult situation. It redirects the focus of the battle. 2. Connects us to God.

3. Praise has power to open doors, we enter the kingdom of God.

4. In praise, obedience and holiness are important. 5. There is demonstration of God's power in our praise as we do away with anger and bitterness.

Guest Preacher: Pastor Dr. M. Olaniyi

**Date:** 1 September 2024

**Title:** The promise that cannot fail

**Text:** Hebrews 13:5b-6

**Introduction:** A promise can be defined as ‘a declaration or assurance that one will do something or that a particular thing will happen.’ This promise may be written or unwritten through word of mouth, but it is binding on the part of the promiser. Scholars have suggested that the word ‘promise’ or its derivative appears 214 times in the Bible. This passage draws our attention to three things about the promise that cannot fail.

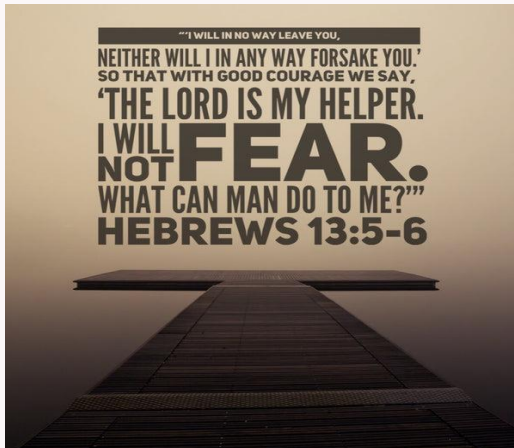
**1. The capacity of the faithful promiser (verse 5b).** God Himself is the promiser in this part of the verse. The phrase ‘He Himself’ is an emphasis to demonstrate that it was God’s covenant and personal decision. He said it and instructed the biblical writers to document it. The integrity of the promiser is important. This will help us to know if they will fulfil their pledge or not.

**2. The specific promise of God (verse 5c).** Every word in this part of the verse is important. God is the subject doing the action here. This is a promise of His abiding presence. God told the Israelites that He would never leave nor forsake them (Deuteronomy 31:6-8). The writer of Hebrews also echoed the same promise to confirm that it is also for believers in Christ today.

**3. The aftermath of God’s promise (verse 6).** There are four end results of holding unto God’s promise in this verse. First, we derive our boldness in the Lord (verse 6a). Second, we can declare that the Lord is our helper and rest in Him (verse 6b). Third, we receive motivation to refuse to be afraid (verse 6c). Fourth, we can dare fellow mortals or humans threatening us (verse 6d). The implication is that holding unto God’s promises will give you peace as you navigate your way through life.

**Conclusion:** The writer of Hebrews emphasised three things in this passage. First is the capacity of the faithful promiser. Second is the specific promise of God. Third is the aftermath of God’s promise. The promise of God cannot fail. He will be faithful to the end.

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



**Date:** 8 September 2024

**Title:** Beware of Satanic attack (Part 1)

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 2:11



**Introduction:** Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians at Corinth to beware of the cunning schemes that Satan can use to attack believers. We want to focus our attention on the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Let us examine six among many instances when Satan attempted to attack Jesus using different schemes as recorded in the Gospel of Matthew.

**1. Satanic attack when Jesus was born as a baby (Matthew 2:16-18).**

King Herod sent his soldiers to kill all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under to eliminate Jesus. Always remember that if Satan could inspire king Herod to kill Jesus the Messiah, he can motivate anyone to kill or destroy you.

**2. Satanic attacks before the commencement of Jesus' earthly ministry (Matthew 3:1-12).** Jesus prayed and fasted for forty days in the wilderness at the commencement of His earthly ministry. But Satan showed up at the end of His spiritual preparation to tempt Him. Always remember that if Satan could tempt the human nature of Christ, he can bombard you with all forms of temptations.

**3. Satanic attacks during Jesus' earthly ministry (Matthew 26:3-5).**

Jesus had many enemies during His earthly ministry. Always remember that if Satan could attack the ministry of Jesus Christ, he will do everything possible to attack the assignment that God has given you.

**4. Satanic attack at Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane (Matthew 26:36-46).**

Jesus went to a place called Gethsemane with His disciples to pray, but he found the disciples sleeping. The human nature of Jesus Christ was distressed and deeply grieved to the point of death. This was an attack from the devil. In addition, I can imagine that Satan weakened the disciples so that they could not intercede for Jesus when their support was needed most.

**5. Satanic attack at Jesus through Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:47-50).**

Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ by arranging a signal that they should arrest whoever he kissed. He went straight to Jesus and said, 'greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus, and arrested Him. Always remember that the devil can attempt to use your closest friends to bring you down.

**6. Satanic attack at Jesus' on the cross of Calvary (Matthew 27:38-44).**

The Bible confirmed that those who passed by when they saw Jesus Christ on the cross hurled insults at Him and shook their heads. Always remember that if Satan could inspire the Jewish leaders and one of the thieves on the cross to distract Jesus' attention at the point of death, he can try one more time at your point of death.

**Conclusion:** The devil is a liar and father of liars. He has not changed his strategy, and we should not be ignorant of his devices. Jesus prevailed despite all the attacks of the devil.

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

**Date:** 15 September 2024

**Title:** Beware of Satanic attack (Part 2)

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 2:11

**Introduction:** The Old Testament gives us the foundation to the history of God's plan of salvation. It contains the story of creation, fall, flood, tower of Babel, God's relationship with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the 12 tribes of Israel. It also gives us an overview of the history of the Israelites before, during, and after the exile. This teaching will examine some examples of satanic attack in the lives of some Old Testament characters.

**1. Satanic attack on Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-9).**

God instructed Adam and Eve not to eat from the tree in the middle of the garden because they would die. Unfortunately, the devil orchestrated the disobedience of Adam and Eve, and they were banished from the garden of Eden.

**2. Satanic attack on king Saul (1 Samuel 16:14).**

The Bible confirmed that when king Saul disobeyed God, an evil spirit began to torment him. King Saul began to misbehave like a madman. My understanding of this verse is that Satan and demons wanted to attack Saul; what happened is that God gave them the permission to do so.

**3. Satanic attack on David when he counted Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1-14).**

Satan attacked Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel (1 Chronicles 21:1). In my view, David wanted to count Israel to know the number of prospective men, horses and soldiers who can fight in battles as well as for the purpose of taxes.

**4. Satanic attack to frustrate prophet Elijah after the supernatural display at mount Carmel (1 Kings 19:1-9).**

Elijah was a successful prophet in Israel. He declared that there shall be no rain for three and half years, and it happened (1 Kings 17:1). He called down fire at mount Carmel on an altar soaked with water (1 Kings 18:30-33). However, prophet Elijah ran away and expressed the willingness to die after some words of threat from Jezebel. This was a satanic attack.

**5. Satanic attack on Daniel at his workplace (Daniel 6:1-16).**

Daniel distinguished himself as an exceptional worker in the administrative service of Babylon because the Lord blessed him with the spirit of excellence. However, the devil filled his colleagues with the spirit of jealousy. They looked for any loophole to get rid of Daniel, but they could not find any mistake.

**6. Satanic attack on Joshua the high priest (Zechariah 3:1-4).**

Joshua the high priest was ministering before the Lord without realising that the devil has put a filthy garment on him. The Lord rebuked Satan and directed that the filthy garment should be taken away from Joshua.

**Conclusion:** There are many examples of biblical characters in the Old Testament who were attacked by the devil for one reason or another. What we can learn from this is that the devil was active and busy throughout the Old Testament period. His aim is to attack whatever and whoever gives God's pleasure.

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





**Date:** 22 September 2024

**Title:** Beware of Satanic attack (Part 3)

**Text:** 2 Corinthians 2:11

**Introduction:** The New Testament gives us information about the birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It also gives us a brief history of the ascension of Jesus to heaven, the day of Pentecost, and how the gospel spread from Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria to the uttermost part of the world. It ends with the eschatological information about what will happen in the future. Let us examine some examples of satanic attack in the New Testament.

**1. Satanic attack on the man of Gadara (Mark 5:1-20).**

The man of Gadara was under severe attack of the devil. He did not have food, shelter, clothes, and other basic amenities. The man had no hope for the future, but Jesus stepped in to give him hope. Jesus casted out the demons in him, and he followed Jesus after his liberation.

**2. Satanic attack on Mary Magdalene (Luke 8:2).**

The biblical narrator reported that Mary Magdalene had seven familiar spirits residing in her. She was tormented day and night. Her life was purposeless because of this oppression. Jesus casted out the seven evil spirits in her, and she became one of the women that contributed immensely to Jesus' earthly ministry.

**3. Satanic attack on Simon Peter (Luke 22:31-32).**

Jesus warned Simon Peter that Satan desired to have him and sift him as wheat. But He has prayed for him that his faith will not fail. What it means is that Satan wanted to shake Peter's faith so forcefully that he would fall.

**4. Satanic attack on the disciples of Jesus (Acts 5:40-42; Acts 8:1-4).**

Satan attacked the followers of Jesus in the early church. The apostles were beaten thoroughly and warned not to speak in Jesus' name (Acts 5:40-42). The persecution in Jerusalem spread to Judea, Samaria, and other places. Stephen eventually became the first martyr (Acts 8:1-4).

**5. Satanic attack on the ministry of Paul and Barnabas (Acts 15:36-39).**

Paul and Barnabas became great partners on the mission field during the first missionary journey. However, they had unreconcilable differences over John-Mark at the beginning of the second missionary journey. Barnabas took John Mark with him and sailed for Cyprus. Then Paul picked Silas to continue with the missionary journey (Acts 15:36-39).

**6. Satanic attack on the ministry of Paul and Silas (Acts 16:12-23).**

Paul and Silas went to preach at Philippi and many people got converted. A young girl who was making money for her master through divination also received deliverance. This led to riot in the city. Paul and Silas were arrested and imprisoned.

**Conclusion:** The devil was active throughout the New Testament period. He is still active today attacking Christians. The attack on your life is a sign of respect because Satan knows your potentials and capacity. The level of his attack can also be an indication of the level of blessing that God has in store for you.

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

**Date:** 29 September 2024

**Title:** A two-in-one motivational verse

**Text:** Romans 8:31



**Introduction:** The phrase "two in one" typically refers to something that combines or represents two different things or functions within a single entity. It implies that you are getting the benefits or characteristics of both elements simultaneously. We reflect on the two questions in the verse and conclude with hope and encouragement because of the benefits we have received and that we will have presently in Christ Jesus.

**The things God has given to us.** Romans 8:31a

Paul referred to the benefits we have received as Christians that he taught about:

- 1. Salvation** - the freedom from sin and death, Romans 3:23, 24; 6:14 Sin no longer have dominion over us: we are not under the law, but under grace.
- 2. Holy Spirit** who lives in us to guide, direct, remind, embolden and bear witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: Romans 8:16; 2 Corinthians 1:22.
- 3. The new life** we have as God's children. We are new creatures. Romans 8:11, 2 Corinthians 5:17.
- 4. Renewal** reminds us that even in the midst of challenges, pain or suffering, we see God refining us, working to conform us "to the image of his Son." Romans 5:3-5. Faith in Jesus does not remove all the struggles we may encounter in life.
- 5. Endurance.** We have grace, strength and hope to endure the race. God's grace is sufficient for us and in all things God works for our good.

**The things God will give to us.** Romans 8:31b

Paul then supports what he asserts with four proofs of the benefits God will give to us.

- 1. God will graciously give us all things (Romans 8:32).** If God gave us the greatest gift, His own Son, then God will certainly give us everything else we need.
- 2. No one will bring a charge against us (Romans 8:33).** No one can take us to court before God and win a case against us, because God himself is the one who has declared us righteous.
- 3. No one will condemn us (Romans 8:34).**  
No one can condemn us to hell on judgment day because Jesus himself died for us, was raised for us, and is now at the right hand of God interceding for us.
- 4. Nothing will separate us from the love of Christ (Romans 8:35–39).**  
Christ loves us, and no enemy or weapon or calamity can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Isaiah 54:17. No weapon fashioned or formed against us shall prosper.

**Conclusion:** God has done great things for us. He has also promised to do greater things for us. We are assured by evidence upon evidence that "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

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



**Date:** 6 October 2024

**Title:** The Importance of Sound Doctrine in our Churches today

**Text:** Matthew 15:8-9; Acts 2:40-42

**Introduction:** As Apostle Paul approached the final days of his ministry, he set out his thoughts on the future well-being of Timothy, his "beloved child" in the faith and instructed Timothy regarding the importance of sound doctrine to his ministry (2 Timothy 1:2; 3: 8–17; 6:3–4).

**What is doctrine?** Any sort of teaching or "a set of ideas or beliefs that are taught or believed to be true." Generally, doctrine is "whatever is taught." The Bible, talks about the doctrines of men (Mark 7:7–8), the doctrines of demons (1 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 2:24), and the teachings of God (John 6:45; 1 Thessalonians 4:9; 1 John 2:27). Biblical sound doctrine refers to a body of teachings that align with the revealed Word of God, the Bible.

**Where does false doctrine come from?** False doctrine is any teaching or practice that adds to, takes away from, contradicts, or nullifies the doctrine given in the Holy Scriptures. False doctrine was already infiltrating the early church, and many of the epistles in the New Testament were written to combat those errors (Galatians 1:6–9; Colossians 2:20–23; Titus 1:10–11).

**Peddlers of false Doctrine:** The greatest problems Christianity has faced have been from within the church and outside the confine of Christianity we expect unbelief, denial, and even challenges. Within the church we are often urged to consider the wolves in sheep's clothing who are seeking to devour the flock.

**Doctrines of Demons:** Heresy has plagued the church since its beginning, as evidenced in epistles like 1 John and Jude. Those who teach falsehood invariably mix some truth with their departures from Biblically sound doctrine and this makes it hard to recognise as heretical when they first emerge on the scene.

**Savage wolves:** In Acts 20:29-30, the apostle Paul warned the elders of the church at Ephesus—and by extension, churches through the years since, that savage wolves in sheep clothing will teach perversions of God's holy truth—twisted, distorted, heretical doctrine. (2 Cor. 4:2-3; 2 Cor. 2:17; 1Tim. 6:5; Rom. 16:18). Our Lord Jesus also warned about such men in Matthew 7:15.

**Origin of True Doctrine:** How can we distinguish sound doctrine from false one and how can we distinguish between teachers of truth from teachers of error? Putting every doctrine to the test of its consistency with Scriptures is the best way to determine if it is Biblical or not (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; Galatians 1:11-12; John 7:16; Colossians 2:22, 1 Timothy 4:1; 2 Timothy 3:16; Mark 7:7–8; 2 Peter 3:16).

**Test of Authority and Consistency:** The Bible is the LORD's inerrant, infallible, sufficient, complete, and authoritative revelation of Himself to humanity. The pattern of sound doctrine is (i) Trinitarian (1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:4–6; Titus 3:4–7), (ii) creation affirming (1 Tim. 2:13–15; 4:1–4), (iii) gospel centred (1 Tim. 3:16; Titus 2:11–14), and (iv) church oriented (1 Tim. 3:14–15).

**Conclusion:** As followers of Christ, we have no excuse for remaining ignorant of sound Biblical doctrine since we have the "whole counsel of God" (Acts 20:27) available to us—the Bible is complete.

Preacher: Pastor Emmanuel Ofori

**Date:** 13 October 2024

**Title:** Beware of Satanic attack (Part 4)

**Text:** 1 John 2:15-17

**Introduction (verses 15-16a).** We are rounding up this series with a reflection on satanic attack on contemporary Christians. In my view, verses 15-16a serve as a good background to the warning in verse 16b. Let us examine the four things that we must guard jealously if we want to escape from satanic attack.

**1. You must guard your flesh (first part of verse 16b).**

The flesh and the Spirit of God are always at war within us. Apostle Paul understood this better when he cried out, 'who will deliver me from this flesh?' (Romans 7:24). The devil will maximise any opportunity given to him. If you give him an inch, he will take a mile. If you give him an entry point into your life, he will use it against you.

**2. You must guard your eyes (second part of verse 16b).**

We are attracted to sin through what we see. For example, Eve saw that the fruit of the tree at the centre of the garden of Eden was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and desirable for gaining wisdom. She took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband (Genesis 3:6). We are attracted to sin against God whenever we decide to look again and again.

**3. You must guard your thoughts (third part of verse 16c).**

The thought is the centre where spiritual battles are won or lost. This is the centre where we plan good or evil things. When you allow evil thoughts to develop in your heart, the result will be disastrous at the end. Satan recognises that God is your powerbase. He would do everything possible to separate your heart from God and inspire confidence in yourself.

**4. You must guard your tongue (third part of verse 16c).**

Reckless speeches and outward expression of pride all begin from the heart. The Bible says, 'for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks' (Matthew 12:34b). The tongue is a small organ in the body, yet it could cause a huge harm.

**Conclusion (verses 16c-17).**

Satanic attack is still active in our contemporary world against Christians. These are the four secrets for anyone who wants to be successful in life and their Christian journey. First, you must put your fleshly desires under subjection. Second, you must take your eyes off certain things. Third, you must take your heart off certain things. Fourth, you must take your mouth off certain things.

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

*And the world passeth  
away, and the lust thereof:  
but he that doeth the will of  
God abideth for ever.*

1 John 2:17  
(KJV)



**Date:** 20 October 2024

**Title:** Militant praise

**Text:** Psalm 149: 6-9

### Introduction (verse 6)

Militant praise is a combative and aggressive use of praise in support or against a particular cause. This approach is usually extreme, violent, and confrontational to achieve the expected purpose (Psalm 149:6). The remaining part of the passage summarises what you can use militant praise to achieve.

**1. The use of militant praise to execute vengeance (verse 7a).** The Bible confirms that vengeance belongs to God (Deuteronomy 32:35; Romans 12:17-19). Nonetheless, we can use militant praise to invoke His vengeance. The revenge here is not for personal or earthly gains, but it is in obedience to God's command.

**2. The use of militant praise to unleash punishment (verse 7b).** Militant praise has the capacity to destroy the enemies of God and enemies of His people anytime and anywhere they gather. Your militant praise can confuse your enemies to the extent that they will begin to attack one another. It is very effective in pushing back the forces of darkness and dismantling the forces of evil.

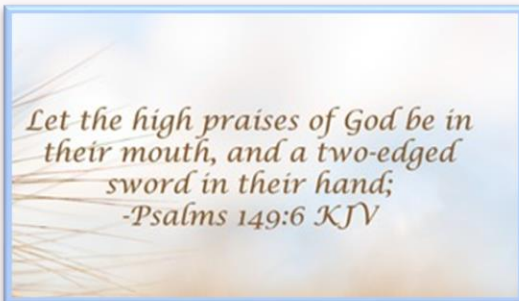
**3. The use of militant praise to bind kings and their dignitaries (verse 8).** The use of plural in this verse implies that the rulers are many. Nonetheless, your militant praise can bind them with shackles of iron. The kings and their dignitaries are Satan, powers, principalities, and rulers in the kingdom of darkness.

**4. The use of militant praise to implement written judgment (verse 9a).** The written judgment can be found in the pages of Scripture. The militant praise of our God is a tested and approved weapon to fight any battle of life. It is a two-edged sword that God uses to execute judgement upon His enemies and the enemies of His children. It is amazing to note that the Old Testament saints did not have access to the name of Jesus, yet they used militant praise as a weapon of judgement, deliverance and spiritual warfare.

### Conclusion (verse 9b)

Participating in militant praise is a great honour and privilege for those who are godly and holy. We can use it to execute vengeance, unleash punishment, bind kings and their dignitaries, and implement written judgment. Militant praise offers us access to the supernatural.

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



**Date:** 27 October 2024

**Title:** Look back and give thanks

**Text:** Luke 17:11-19

**Introduction (verses 11-14):** I want us to look at the story of the ten lepers that Jesus healed in this passage from the perspective of the Samaritan man who returned to give thanks. We can learn five lessons from this man that can make our lives different from others today.

**Lesson 1. Look back to your life and return to Jesus (verse 15a).** The man remembered how leprosy had kept him away from the public domain for many years. He was overwhelmed with joy when he realised that he has been healed. The man considered returning to Jesus as more important than presenting himself to the priests.

**Lesson 2. Look back to your life and give thanks publicly (verse 15b).** The Samaritan man understood that he may have remained a leper for the rest of his life without Jesus' intervention. He realised that he may have died a premature death without the healing. He decided to glorify God with a loud voice. This is about praising God with enthusiasm.

**Lesson 3. Look back to your life and worship Jesus (verse 16a).** The Samaritan man bowed down at the feet of Jesus in humble adoration after his healing from leprosy. The biblical narrator was silent about other things that the man may have said when he was worshipping Jesus. What was most important was the condition of his heart. This implies that you can bow down in silent worship and humble yourself before the Lord.

**Lesson 4. Look back to your life and testify before others (verse 16b-c).** A testifier is someone who gives evidence or testimony about something they have seen or experienced. The man testified about his encounter with Jesus, and how he received healing from leprosy. It was a big testimony that the one who was once an outcast in Israel, can now relate with others.

**Lesson 5. Look back to your life and continue to follow Jesus (verses 17-19).** Jesus told the man to stand up and go because his faith has made him well. The biblical narrator was silent about what happened afterwards, but I can imagine that the man continued to be a follower of Jesus Christ. He shared the news throughout his lifetime.

**Conclusion:** The main point of this teaching is that deep reflection will always produce thanksgiving. Therefore, your reflection should motivate you to return to Jesus, give thanks publicly, worship Jesus in humble adoration, testify before others, and continue to follow Jesus.

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

*Jesus asked, "Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And Jesus said to the man, "Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you."*

- Luke 17: 17-19 NLT -



**Date:** 3 November 2024

**Title:** Christians as the Light of the World

**Text:** John 12:35

**Introduction:** This teaching focuses on Christians as the light of the world with special reference to our spirituality. The context of this verse (John 12:35) is placed in John 12:27-50 where Jesus foretold His death. The biblical narrator reported that the human nature of Christ was troubled, and He asked the father to glorify His name. Then, a voice spoke out from heaven and said, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again' (verse 28). The crowd who witnessed the incident gave it different interpretations. Jesus responded that the voice did not come for His sake, but for them. Let us reflect deeply on the four specific statements of Jesus in John 12:35.

**Statement 1. Jesus is the source of light (verse 35a).** Jesus referred to himself as the light. He encouraged them to maximise the opportunity while He is physically present with them in His first advent. Jesus knew that His incarnation was for a limited time, and He wanted them to be aware of this. Jesus is the source of light. Therefore, your light cannot shine without Christ.

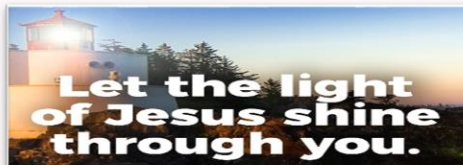
**Statement 2. Walk in the light (verse 35b).** Walking in the light is a continuous process after salvation. We can walk based on the light of Christ that is shining on our path. This is about developing a solid relationship with Jesus daily. Elsewhere, Jesus said, 'in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven' (Matthew 5:16). We must reflect the light of Christ through prayer and joyful service to others.

**Statement 3. Do not allow darkness to overtake you (verse 35c),** Darkness is the opposite of light. You are either walking in the light or darkness. There is a constant battle between light and darkness, and we have a responsibility to choose where we want to belong. The implication is that anyone who is not walking in the light can be easily overtaken by darkness irrespective of their position.

**Statement 4. Know where you are going (verse 35d).** The final profound statement that Jesus made in this verse is that those who walk in darkness don't know where they are going.' Light and darkness cannot dwell together. The light shines out into the darkness because it is stronger than darkness. In addition, light shows the way and guides us to our destination. The light of Christ can also take us to heaven.

**Conclusion:** You are the light of the world. Therefore, you should remember that Jesus is the source of light, walk in the light, do not allow darkness to overtake you, and know where you are going. Let your light shine to expose the darkness in the world (Romans 13:12).

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



**Date:** 10 November 2024

**Title:** Did you lack anything?

**Text:** Luke 22:35; 15:11-32; 10:1-24; Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:31-34

**Introduction:** Jesus made reference to when he sent 72 disciples out two-by-two into the surrounding towns and villages that he was going to go to eventually. They went without food, money, a bag, and shoes as commanded but lacked nothing. Regarding lack, we can see how the prodigal son squandered everything he had and began to be in need. We examine 10 important facts in the two ways of looking at need of the prodigal son and the 72 disciples.

**Leaving:** The younger son leaves his family full, with his half of his father's inheritance, whereas the disciples are sent out by Jesus in Luke 10:1-12 without much of anything.

**Companionship:** The prodigal son leaves by himself like a lone ranger, whereas the disciples are sent out with a companion, two by two.

**Investment:** The younger son invests in shallow relationships, who disappeared when the money ran out, whereas the disciples go and find people of peace that accept the gospel, invite them into their homes and into their lives.

**Employment:** When hard times came, the prodigal son cannot find meaningful work so he hires himself out to a pig farmer, whereas the disciples are given meaningful work where they cured the sick and proclaim God's Kingdom.

**Needs:** The younger son longs to eat of the pigs food, but was not offered it whereas the disciples have food and drink that is set before them by people of peace. **Economic collapse:** The prodigal son was suffering from an economic collapse because of a famine in the land, there was no plan B. Whereas the disciples were confident because Jesus had said "the labourer deserves to be paid". The Master had a plan and gave them His word.

**Choices:** The younger son had a choice to stay at home with his father but decided to take a trip into the unknown world, whereas the disciples had no choice, they were commanded to go, there was an urgency to this mission of good news.

**Responses:** The younger son receives an initial positive welcome but was rejected by everyone when his fortune changed for the worse whereas the disciples had both positive and negative experiences, but the overall outcomes of their missions was successful.

**Danger:** The prodigal son went out like a lamb into the midst of wolves without any warning prior to his journey and barely made it back alive but the disciples being before warned to beware of the wolves, heeded advice, did their missionary journeys and came back victorious and rejoicing.

**Obligations:** The prodigal son's father had no obligation for the welfare / wellbeing of his younger son in a strange land. Jesus was responsible for His ambassadors' wellbeing and what happens after the gospel has been proclaimed, ensuring their safety and to give the increase and success of the missions.

**Conclusion:** God cares for us, has a plan for and will meet us all in our needs. This is in alignment with His wonderful riches that come to us because we belong to Christ Jesus. God has promised to provide for us physically and spiritually.

Preacher: Resident Pastor – Rev A.O. Oni





**Date:** 17 November 2024

**Title:** A 30<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary Message: The Lord is in it

**Text:** Psalm 127:1; Matthew 7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**Introduction:** Life without Christ is a life full of crisis. Through challenges of life, you have prevailed because the Lord is in it. We may not know how the journey of life will be, it is the Lord that builds and kept you through it all. With Christ in you and in your marriage, you will enjoy success and experience joy.

To continue to enjoy a successful and Christ filled marriage;

1. **Build on the rock:** A life built on Jesus the solid rock will prevail. It is important to rely on God's guidance and blessings in all endeavours, including marriage.
2. **Commitment:** Be committed to your marriage. God is the builder of a marriage, the marriage partners are the labourers.
3. **Understanding:** Understanding each other, complementing one another and working together will go a long way for many more years to come in your Christ led relationship.
4. **Prayerful life:** Be prayerful in good times and hard times. Holding onto Jesus always emphasises that our human efforts are futile without divine assistance and guidance.
5. **Sacrifice:** Living a life of sacrifice, overlooking mistakes and forgiving one another is vital for a successful marriage.

**Conclusion:** Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.

Preacher: Pastor Olalere



**Date:** 24 November 2024

**Title:** Enhancing Church Growth through Spiritual Power and Gifts

**Text:** Acts 5:12-16

**Introduction:** Missiologists have identified the four dimensions of church growth as intellectual growth, numerical growth, spiritual growth, and relational growth. In my view, every church should grow in all these areas. Following the template of the NT church, there are four ways by which we can enhance church growth through spiritual power and gifts in this passage.

**1. Enhancing church growth through availability and total reliance on the triune God (verse 12a).** The triune God was the source of the spiritual power and gifts that the early disciples used for church growth in the New Testament church. They made themselves available and relied on the triune God for divine empowerment to perform miracles.

**2. Enhancing church growth through corporate prayer and worship (verse 12b).** The believers gathered at Solomon's portico. This implies that there is power in the gathering of God's people for corporate prayer and worship. Prayer is not just for our personal devotion and individual needs. It is also a powerful weapon in building and expanding the church. It is essential for fostering spiritual and numerical growth of the church. The gathering generated corporate anointing for church growth.

**3. Enhancing church growth through righteousness and holiness (verse 13).** There was sanctity and integrity in the New Testament church. The early Christians distinguished themselves through their words and actions to the extent that the outsiders held them in high esteem. This allowed for the move of God in their midst and eventually became a seed for church growth.

**4. Enhancing church growth by walking into challenging situations with unshakeable faith (verses 14-16).** The biblical narrator reported that the early church experienced exponential growth as God added large numbers of new converts to the group. The members of the public carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets with the expectation that they will receive their healing whenever Peter walked by, or his shadow fell on them. The apostles did not wake up boasting at the beginning of the day that they will heal a specific number of people. They just walked into the situations presented to them by faith.

**Conclusion:** We can experience the same exponential growth that was recorded in the New Testament church if we follow their godly approach. The Bible says, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever' (Hebrews 13: 8). There is power like the days of old, we are the ones that are not connecting with the triune God like the people of old. Therefore, we must be available and reliant on the triune God. We must participate in corporate prayer and worship. We must exhibit righteousness and holiness. We must walk into challenging situations with unshakeable faith.

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



**Title: A life of Failures - Herod Antipas****Text:** Matthew 14:1-12

**Introduction:** Herod Antipas' heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. The LORD searched his heart and examined his mind, and rewarded him according to his conduct and deeds. Herod did not fulfil God's commandment or expectations as a ruler of his people. His reign was remembered for evil, deceit and deliberate errors. In the end Herod received the due punishment for his wickedness.

**The birthday party:** Matthew 14:6. Herod was a tetrarch, governor of Galilee and Perea. He also bore the title 'king'. His birthday was to show off his wealth and power, and entertain all the other prestigious men of power within the region. The party was a failure, it led to murder. The celebration of life ended in physical death for John the Baptist but spiritual death for Herod.

**The unlawful marriage:** Matthew 14:3,4. Herodias was the wife of Herod's brother, Phillip and now Herod had married her. John condemned Herod by advising it was not lawful for him to have her Leviticus 18:16, 20:21; Ecclesiastes 1:9. Nothing corrupts like power and nothing intoxicates like alcohol. The marriage was a failure, it did not work out for good. It was illegal, unfruitful and a violation of God's law.

**The preacher's message:** Matthew 14:4, John 1:6-8, Romans 8:7. When Herod was tetrarch and ruler, John the Baptist was a preacher sent from God, who came to testify. Somewhere along the way, Herod and John the Baptist had a conversation about Herod's incestuous adultery with Herodias. Herod failed to accept God's message through John the Baptist. It did not yield the peaceful fruit or repentance.

**The step daughter** Matthew 14:6; Daniel 5: 2-5. King Herod was entertained by Herodias' daughter, Salome in a worthless dance and subsequently lost his mind. Like Belshazzar, king of Babylon, he conveniently carried out an evil design against God's prophet. As father and head of family he failed by giving his step daughter a human head.

**The faithful servants:** Matthew 14:5; Exodus 23:2. Herod feared that the putting of John to death might raise a rebellion among the people, which it did not; but he never feared it might stir up his own conscience against him, which it did. Herod's faithful servants were a failure to him. They did not rebel and failed to tell him the truth.

**The Divine encounter:** Matthew 14:12; Luke 23:6-12. Herod made no profit or gain from meeting with Jesus Christ face to face. His inadequacies did not drive him toward repentance before the Messiah. He was insensitive to God's revelation, grace and presence. Herod failed to appropriate salvation when he encountered Jesus Christ.

**Conclusion:** Herod covered his sins and did not prosper. He lived a life of failures and also missed eternal life.

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

**Title: Glory Outburst****Text:** Psalm 22:3

**Introduction:** Glory outburst is a positive outburst, a shout of victory and an expression of joy He has given us. We obtain more victory and success when we praise God. **7 keys the outburst of joy and thanksgiving we are expressing do in our lives;** **1. Bringing down the presence of God;** We bring heavenly atmosphere into our situation and move the hand of God. Praising God has no limitations, sometimes with prayer we pray amiss, 2 Chronicles 5:13. **2. Unlocking miracles of multiplication:** In Mark 8:6-9, Jesus fed 5000 people by lifting up the bread and thanking God. **3. Goes further than prayers:** Praises delights God and areas of unanswered prayers are touched when we praise Him. **4. An important component of prayer:** Prayers start with thanksgiving which is an important habit to cultivate. **5. The will of God for our lives:** God desires our praise and thanksgiving as His will (1 Thessalonians 5:16). **6. A weapon of warfare:** Jehoshaphat and the Israelites praised God to defeat their enemies (2 Chronicles 20:20-23). **7. A sacrifice of the altar of our hearts:** A continual practice of praising God delights Him. **Conclusion:** Praising God is evidence that you love Him. If fervent prayer had not worked for you, try fervent praise and thanksgiving. Guest Preacher: Dr. Richard Adekoya

**Date:** 8 December 2024

**Title:** The sweetest Christmas carols ever sung

**Text:** Luke 2:1-38



**Introduction (verses 1-7):** Caesar Augustus, made a decree that all the people should go to their own city to register for census. Joseph also went up from the city of Nazareth with his heavily pregnant wife Mary to Bethlehem in Judea. Mary gave birth to Jesus at that time, and she wrapped Him with cloths in a manger. There are four sweetest Christmas carols in this passage.

**Sweetest carol 1. The carol of the angels (verses 8-14).** Some shepherds were out in the fields keeping watch over their flock in the same region on the night Jesus was born. An angel of the Lord told them the good news of great joy that the Saviour has been born for all the people in the city of David. Multitude of the heavenly army of angels appeared after the angel had delivered the message to the shepherd. They sang their carol praising God.

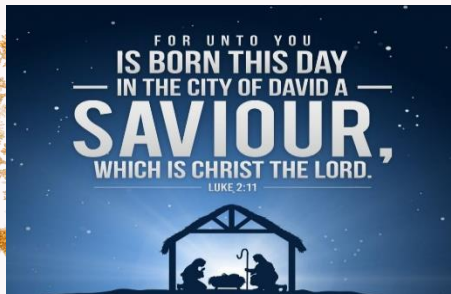
**Sweetest carol 2. The carol of the shepherds (verses 15-20).** The shepherds decided to go straight to Bethlehem. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby Jesus in the manger. The shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all that they have heard and seen. In my view, they followed in the steps of the angels and presented their own carol.

**Sweetest carol 3. The carol of Simeon (verses 21-35).** There was a man called Simeon who lived in Jerusalem at that time. The biblical narrator mentioned five things about Simeon: First, he was a righteous man (verse 25b). Second, he was a devout worshipper of Yahweh (verse 25b). He was eagerly waiting daily and looking forward to the consolation of Israel (verse 25c). Fourth, he was filled with the Holy Spirit (verse 25d). Fifth, the Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would see the Messiah before his death (verse 26). The Holy Spirit directed him to the temple on that day to meet with baby Jesus and His earthly parents. Simeon carried baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God.

**Sweetest carol 4. The carol of Anna the prophetess (verses 36-38).** Anna the prophetess was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She became a widow after seven years of marriage. She decided to turn her mystery as a young widow into a ministry. She decided to dedicate the rest of her life to God. She gave thanks to the triune God when she saw baby Jesus in the temple.

**Conclusion:** We have examined the carol of the angels, carol of the shepherds, carol of Simeon, and carol of Anna the prophetess. We also have the privilege today to sing our own carol to the King.

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



**Date:** 15 December 2024

**Title:** The genealogy of Jesus Christ the King

**Text:** Matthew 1:1-17



**Introduction (verse 1).** Genealogies in Ancient Near East, ancient Israel, and around the world provide important records of historical succession, continuity, and legitimacy. Matthew invites us to look at some key people in the genealogy of Jesus and how the promises given to them shaped the entire salvation history. We can divide the genealogy of Jesus Christ in this passage into three parts:

**1. The genealogy of Jesus Christ from Abraham to Jesse (verses 2-6).** The call of Abraham was missional (Genesis 12:1-9). God wanted to save humankind after the story of the fall and the flood. God decided to use Abraham and his descendants to achieve this purpose. The biblical narrator mentioned a long list of people including Rahab and Ruth in this first part of the genealogy. The implication is that we cannot find pure royalty in the genealogy because God's salvation plan is inclusive of the Gentiles. In addition, it reminds us that God can use anyone to fulfil His purpose.

**2. The genealogy of Jesus Christ from David to the Babylonian captivity (verses 7-11).** Saul was the first king over Israel. God took the kingdom away from Saul and gave it to David when he disobeyed. Prophet Samuel referred to David as 'a man after God's heart' (1 Samuel 13:14). God promised that David's descendants will remain on the throne forever (2 Samuel 7:8-16). Moreover, God kept His promise despite the deviation of Solomon at the end of his life. Jehoshaphat and Hezekiah also distinguished themselves as good kings over Judah. God ensured that the descendants of David continued to sit on the throne in Judah.

**3. The genealogy of Jesus Christ during and after the Babylonian exile (verses 12-16).** The genealogy of Jesus the King continued during and after the Babylonian captivity. God in His sovereignty and supremacy kept the descendants of David throughout the Babylonian exile until they returned to the land of Judah through Zerubbabel and others. The lesson we can learn from this is that nothing can stop the plan of God. The first Christmas is a reminder that God preserved the remnants from the house of David through Joseph as He promised.

**Conclusion (verse 17)**

Matthew reported that there were fourteen generations between Abraham and David, fourteen generations between David and the Babylonian exile, and fourteen generations between the deportation to Babylon and the arrival of Jesus the Messiah. Matthew weaved his arguments together to justify that Jesus is the King by presenting His royal genealogy.

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



**Date:** 22 December 2024

**Title:** The conception and birth of Jesus Christ the King

**Text:** Matthew 1:18-25



**Introduction:** The central idea of this teaching is that the Holy Spirit enabled Mary (a virgin), to conceive Jesus, who was fully divine and fully human. The roles of Mary and the Holy Spirit in the conception of Jesus reflect the beautifully interwoven aspects of humanity and divinity that define the incarnation. In my view, there are five things about the conception and birth of Jesus Christ the King in this passage.

**1. Jesus Christ is the King with a unique conception (verse 18).** Mary was betrothed to Joseph with the approval of their respective families on both sides. Mary became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit before they began to live together. This conception was unique. It reminds us that Jesus Christ is the seed of the King of Kings.

**2. Jesus Christ is the King with a rich family heritage (verse 19, 24-25).** The biblical narrator mentioned four things about Joseph. First, he was a righteous man (verse 19a). Second, he showed respect for Mary (verse 19b). Third, he was a decent man (verse 19c). Fourth, he was an obedient man (verse 24). Fifth, he displayed chastity throughout the pregnancy (verse 25).

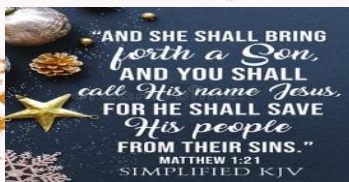
**3. Jesus Christ is the King with an angelic announcement (verse 20).** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream with specific information about the King to be born. There are three things about this angelic announcement. First, the angel called Joseph son of David (verse 20a). Second, the angel reassured Joseph that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife (verse 20b). Third, the angel informed Joseph that Mary's pregnancy was of the Holy Spirit (verse 20c).

**4. Jesus Christ is the King with special names (verse 21a, 22-23).** The angel mentioned two specific names to Joseph in this passage. The first name is Jesus (verse 21a). The name Jesus in Greek (Iesous) is the transliteration of the Hebrew Yeshua or Joshua which means 'God is salvation.' The second name is Immanuel which means 'God with us.'

**5. Jesus Christ is the King with a specific purpose (verse 21b).** The purpose of Jesus' incarnation is for Him to die on the cross of Calvary. This purpose was set by God the Father. Jesus understood His purpose during His earthly ministry, and He fulfilled it. Therefore, Christmas is a celebration of our salvation.

**Conclusion:** Christmas is the season of reflection on the birth of Jesus Christ the King. Therefore, we must reflect on His unique conception, His rich family heritage, the angelic announcement about His birth, His special names and the purpose of His incarnation.

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



Date: 25 December 2024

Title: The uniqueness of the kingship of Jesus Christ

Text: Matthew 2:1-23



**Introduction:** The kingship of Jesus Christ is special and exceptional. Let us examine five qualities in this passage that make His kingship different from others.

**1. Jesus Christ is the king with a global attention (verses 1-2).** Magi from the east visited Jerusalem during the first Christmas. They saw the star of the King and decided to come down to worship Him. This is evidence that Jesus is the King with a global attention. The kings of the world have territorial limitations, but the kingship of Christ has no limit.

**2. Jesus Christ is the king that is greater than human kings (verses 3-4; 7-8).** The biblical narrator confirmed that Herod and the nobles at Jerusalem were troubled when they heard that another King was born. Herod gathered all the chief priests and scribes in the land to inquire where the Messiah was to be born.

**3. Jesus Christ is the king that came to fulfil prophecies (verses 5-6).** The chief priests and scribes of the people conducted wider research on where the Messiah was to be born. They informed Herod that an Old Testament prophet predicted that it will be in Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:6 cf. Micah 5:2).

**4. Jesus Christ is the king that deserves our worship (verses 9-12).** The magi went on their way and followed the star that led them from the east to Jesus' location. They rejoiced exceedingly with great joy when they found baby Jesus and Mary. They fell on their feet and worshiped Him. They also opened their treasures and presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the King. Jesus Christ is the only King that deserves our worship.

**5. Jesus Christ is the king that is unstoppable and unconquerable (verses 13-23).** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream with the instruction to take baby Jesus and His mother to Egypt. King Herod instructed his soldiers to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under at that time.

**Conclusion:** We can see that the kingship of Jesus Christ is special in five important ways in this passage. First, His kingship is global. Second, His kingship is superior to that of Herod and other human kings. Third, His kingship is a fulfilment of prophecy. Fourth, His kingship requires others to worship Him. Fifth, His kingship is unstoppable and unconquerable.

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



**Date:** 29 December 2024

**Title:** What think we of Christ?

**Text:** Matthew 22:42-46

**MATTHEW 22:42**

*Saying, What think ye of Christ?  
whose son is he?*

*They say unto him, The son of David.*

**Introduction:** Christ baffled His enemies by asking what thoughts they had of the promised Messiah? How could He be the Son of David and yet his Lord? If Christ was a mere man, who would not exist till after David's death, how could His forefather call Him Lord? The Pharisees could not answer it. Nor can any solve the difficulty except he allows the Messiah to be the Son of God, and David's Lord equally with the Father.

**Think of Christ**, because of the office **Christ** fills between God and man.

John 1:14; Matthew 11:27.

Jesus took upon Him human nature, and so became God manifested in the flesh; in this sense He is the Son of man and the Son of David. He is the eternal Son of God, through whom alone the Father can be known, approached, and served. He is the appointed Mediator between God and man, through whom alone we can be reconciled with God, pardoned, justified, and saved. He is the Divine Person whom God the Father has sealed to be the giver of everything that man requires for his soul.

**Think of Christ**, because of what **Christ** has done for all men.

Romans 5:8; 3:12; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

He thought upon man, when man was lost, bankrupt, and helpless by the fall, and undertook to come into the world to save sinners. In the fullness of time He was born of the Virgin Mary, and lived as a man thirty-three years in this evil world. At the end of that time He suffered for sin on the cross, as man's substitute because the wages of sin is death.

**Think of Christ**, because of what **Christ** is offering.

Matthew 11:28-30; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9.

Christ wants a personal relationship with you. The taskmasters of this world do not want you to be free, the debt is never paid and the goal post is always moved. Christ is offering you liberty, healing deliverance and rest. The Lord Jesus Christ offers us salvation through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.

**Think of Christ**, because of what **Christ** will yet do to all men.

Revelation 1:7; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10.

He shall come again one day to this earth with power and glory, and raise the dead from their graves. All shall come forth at His bidding. Those who would not move when they heard the church-going bell, shall obey the voice of the Archangel and the trump of God. He shall set up His judgment-seat, and summon all mankind to stand before it. To Him every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord.

**Conclusion:** Whatever you may choose to think today, a day is soon coming when your eternal condition will hinge entirely on your relations to Christ Jesus. And you need to think of Christ because of His position, what He has done for humanity, what He is offering and what He is about to do to all men.

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





## 2024 Crossover Watchnight Message

**Date:** 31 December 2024

**Title:** My year of Supernatural Speed

**Text:** Isaiah 40:28-31

### Introduction

Our emphasis is on verse 28a. There are two important questions there that we need to reflect on as we prepare for our year of supernatural speed.

#### Question 1. Do you not know? (First part of verse 28a).

Knowledge is power. Those who are knowledgeable are liberated. They know the secrets that others do not know. This enables them to succeed where others have failed. This is about developing a sound understanding of God and how He works. The Bible says, 'the people that know their God shall be strong and do exploits (Daniel 11:32).

#### Question 2. Have you not heard? (Second part of verse 28a).

In my view, this is about awareness of what the Lord has done throughout history as recorded in the Scripture and through the testimonies of others around us. Hearing is vital for remembrance, conviction, direction, and success. Hearing usually stimulate us to action. The Bible says, 'faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God' (Romans 10:17).

### Conclusion

The description of God in the remaining part of verse 28 is encouraging. This reminds us that supernatural speed is the speed that is orchestrated by the triune God. The questions that prophet Isaiah asked the Israelites some thousands of years ago are the same questions that I am asking you on the eve of another year. First, do you not know? Second, have you not heard?

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

**DO YOU NOT KNOW?**

**HAVE YOU NOT HEARD?**

*The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.*

**ISAIAH 40:28**



**Evangelical Global Outreach Church**

*My Year of  
Supernatural Speed*  
Isaiah 40:31

*But they that  
wait upon the Lord  
shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with  
wings as eagles; they shall run,  
and not be weary; and they  
shall walk, and not faint.*





# Evangelical Global Outreach Church (EGOC)

*House of Wonders*

198, Ripple Road, Barking, Essex, London IG11 7PR

Sunday Worship Service

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

Night of Wonders Prayer Meeting

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

Every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month  
7pm - 8pm



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