

Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

605 Geneva Highway/Post Office Box 311015

Enterprise, Alabama 36331-1015

www.johnschapelamec.org (334) 393-2661

Reverend Willie White, Jr., Pastor

The Sermon by Pastor Willie White, Jr.

September 27, 2020

“STAY FOCUSED!!!”

“But Caleb tried to encourage the people as they stood before Moses. “Let’s go at once to take the land, “he said. “We can conquer it!” (Numbers 13:30)

As a young teenager growing up in Dothan, Alabama, I learned how to train dogs with my friends, no professional training just (self taught) training. LOL!! What we learned as a group is you can train dogs through the use of temptation. We took a piece of chicken and threw it in front of the dog. The first time the dog saw the chicken, he would go after it because that’s his nature. The second time we threw out the piece of chicken, we restrained the dog, telling the dog to “stay,” and making the dog redirect his attention to us as (self taught) trainers, before rewarding him with the chicken. We continued to tempt the dog with the chicken while retraining him and making him give his attention to us while repeating, “STAY!” What we learned as (self taught) trainers: The dog has learned if he focuses on the trainer and gives his attention to the trainer, and the trainer will reward him. The dog has learned how to handle the presence of the chicken, because the chicken is no longer the focus, the trainer is.

STAY FOCUSED!!!

Here in our text this morning we lift up three points.

1: PRESSURE (Convince, Demand, Influence). Consider the long - term consequences of our behavior when we allow pressure to shift us away from God. **My Christian brothers and sisters,** we can avoid shifting our focus away from God by comparing the short-term satisfaction with its long-range consequences before we act. Refuse to rationalize. God told the Israelites to go, and that the land was rich and productive; but the Israelites shifted their focus off of God and placed their focus on the people.

STAY FOCUSED!!!

2: PURPOSE (Goal, Objectives, plan). We find purpose in obedience to God. The Israelites traveled and camped as God guided. When you follow God’s guidance, you know you are where God wants you, whether you’re moving or staying in one place. God has a Grab, Drop & Go Message – “Grab a Sermon, Drop Offering and Go Home” & Parking Lot Worship in Cars - Coronavirus Pandemic 2019-2020

purpose in placing you where you are right now. When facing a tough decision don't let the negative cause you to lose sight of the positive. **STAY FOCUSED!!!**

3: PARTNERSHIP (Agreement, Contract, Relationship). Unwise partnerships can have disastrous consequences. We court disaster when we enter into partnership with unbelievers. Some partnerships betray a lack of trust in God. Israel fell apart because the leaders turned to other nations and gods instead of the true God. Don't let potential difficulties blind you to God's power to help and his promise to guide.

STAY FOCUSED!!!

I love being your pastor

Hot dog

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605 Geneva Highway/Post Office Box 311015
Enterprise, Alabama 36331 334-393-2661
The Pastor's Contact Info

Pastor Willie White, Jr. 2501 Scott Road, Dothan Alabama 36303 | 334-701-5853
williewhite203@gmail.com

Please check texts, e-mails and website for updates johnschapelamec.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS –SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2020



Annual Conference 2020 is Here!

Theme: “Creativity and Imagination in the New Normal” – Isaiah 43: 18-19

(Schedule Attached)

--Johns Chapel is still the 2020 Host Church for the 11th Session of the SE Alabama Annual Conference.

Please pray without ceasing for the series of all five annual conferences in the 9th District convene this week. The message for the Tuesday Opening Service will be recorded today at 5:00 p.m. here at the church. Pastor White, Elder Rutledge, and a limited number of individuals will be in the sanctuary during the recording.

--Please pray for God’s continued protection during the ongoing **Coronavirus Pandemic** and His healing across the land. Please stay abreast of the latest directives. www.cdc.gov

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov> www.aarp.org

REMEMBER TO WEAR FACE MASKS IN PUBLIC AT ALL TIMES – CHILDREN TOO! MANDATE OF STATE OF ALABAMA – EXTENDED TO OCTOBER 4, 2020

--Pastor White presents: **“SERMON DASH”**. You may receive a hard copy and/or a CD/DVD of sermons via text, phone call, e-mail or word of mouth, etc., and we will get the sermon to you.

OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP & SERVE THIS WEEK – Check e-mails and text messages for info

--**TODAY 5:00 p.m.** – Annual Conference Recording for Tuesday Worship Service (see details above).

--**EACH SUNDAY** – Worship service in cars at **9:00 a.m.** Grab Sermon & Go – **10:45-11:45**; Church School Lesson **12:00 NOON** via conference call. Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936.

--**EACH WEDNESDAY** – JC Bible Study via conference call - 7:00 p.m. Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936. Zoom format is also available. Watch for invitation in your e-mail.

--From Pastor White: **The Johns Chapel Church Conference will be held on this Tuesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and Conference Call.** Zoom invite will be e-mailed with instructions on joining the meeting. Conference call Dial-in info: 605-513-5111. Access code 737936#. All JC members are also members of the Church Conference and are encouraged to attend. Your input is appreciated.

--All five 9th District Conferences held their **WMS & YPD** held their Combined Annual Conventions on yesterday via Zoom. Excellent messages by **Supervisor Seawright for WMS (“Real Missionaries Doing Real [not Fake] Work!”)** and by **Pastor Devonta Anderson (It’s Time to WAP and BOP” – Willing and Prepared to Be on Point!)**. God also blessed us with excellent attendance, presenters, reports and Zoom technical support.

--**JC MEMBERS ARE OBEYING THE LAW AND RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS.** -- Pastor White is asking Class Leaders to please check on all class members to see how they are doing and also inquire if they have completed the Census. If not, please emphasize the importance, and let them know help is available.

Volunteers: LauReen McDaniel 334-470-1816; Franklin Simmons 334-494-2377; & Marge Simmons 334-477-1962. **27 Households reporting! OUTSTANDING!** If you have completed the Census and your name is not listed above, or if you have not completed the census, please do so today and let Sister Marge know. Check out the website www.census2020.gov and encourage others to respond.

Last day to respond is October 31 (recent ruling by a federal judge) –

Please encourage family and friends to respond!

Pastor White is asking the Johns Chapel Family to join him in prayer for Sister Gay Nell Miley and Sister Lynette Robinson and family in the passing of their Mother and Grandmother.

PRAYER LIST Week of September 27-Oct 3, 2020

- Sister Annie Pearl Allen (wife of Brother Roland)
- Sister Eleanor Bailey
- Sister Thelma Bailey–100-year-old member doing well at home in Tennessee
- Sister Jennifer Bigham
- Sister Debra D. Brown -Address: 74 Davis Street, Charles Town, WV 25414
- Sister Geraldine Booth
- Sister Brenda Crawford
- Caiden M. Gary, Grandson of Sis C. Jones
- Ms Fay, lives in another state – A believer asked us to pray for her sister to have a closer walk with God
- Sister Annie Pearl Frazier
- Sister Ruby Grayer
- Sister Dorothy Holmes
- Sister Kim Jackson—Sister of Bro. Golden
- Sister Vivian Johnson



- The Family of Sister Mable Mays- Bereavement
- Sister Gay Nell Miley – Bereavement – passing of her Mother**
- Sister Ann McGaughey
- Sister Lynette Robinson & Family – Bereavement – passing of Sister Lynette’s grandmother**
- Sister Jackie Scott
- Sister Betty Simmons – Home from Rehab!
- Sister Rosetta White & Brother Willie White, Sr. — Parents of Pastor White
- Sister Johnnie Sanders
- Brother Larry Wilson—Husband of Sis. Shun Wilson
- Sister Eloise Williams
- The United States of America & the World
- *New entries in bold print**
- Remember to pray for and check on our shut-in members.**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sep 29	Willie Ruth Davis	Oct 3	Vivian Johnson
Sep 30	Ruthie Warren		
Oct 1	Craig Crawford		

NO ANNIVERSARIES ON RECORD THIS WEEK.