

# Johns Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

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Reverend Willie White, Jr., Pastor

*The Sermon by Pastor Willie White, Jr.*

*July 5, 2020*

## **FREEDOM IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR!**

**1 Peter 2:9-17; verse 16**—As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servant of God.

**My Christian brothers and sisters**, the other day I was compelled by God's Spirit to revisit my old American History book, and while I was reading about the Revolutionary War, I learned one of the great contradictions of the Revolutionary War was that men fought long and hard to be free. They risked their lives that they might be removed from the power, pressure and mistreatment of England and **enjoy** the wonders of freedom in what would be the United States of America. The irony, the messed up part, however, is that the very men who fought for freedom endorsed slavery and owned slaves. The contradiction is freemen owning slaves. Slavery was so bad, awful, and terrible that it became one of the primary reasons for a civil war. Now let me give you my thesis statement "When you find freedom, you ought to offer it to other people too!" When you have discovered that you have been made free, then slavery ought not to be part of your vocabulary.

**My Christian brothers and sisters**, what was true of the Revolutionary War is also true for us right now. Let me give you my thesis statement again "When you find freedom, you ought to offer it to other people too!" **FREEDOM IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

Let us pull from verses 9-10 in order for us to identify **point number one**.

**1: GRACE (FORGIVENESS, LOVE, MERCY)**. God's grace makes our salvation possible. Grace is God's voluntary and loving favor given to those He saves. We can't earn salvation, nor do we deserve it. No religion, intellectual, or moral effort can gain it, because it comes only from God's mercy and love. God's grace should lead us to serve others with love. We become Christians through God's unmerited grace, not as the result of any effort, ability, intelligent choice, or act of service on our part. However, out of gratitude for this free gift, we

Grab, Drop & Go Message – "Grab a Sermon, Drop Offering and Go Home" - Coronavirus Pandemic 2019-2020

will seek to help and serve others with kindness, love, and goodness. We have received freedom, (SALVATION) not for our own benefit but to serve Him and build up His church.

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Now let's glean from verses 11-14 so that we can capture **point number two**.

**2: GOVERNMENT (KINGS, LEADERS, RULERS).** Those in authority are ultimately responsible to God. (Deuteronomy 17:18-19). The king was to be a man of God's word. He was to (1) have a copy of the law made for his personal use, (2) keep it with him all the time, (3) read from it every day, and (4) obey it completely. Through this process he would learn respect for God, keep himself from feeling more important than others, and avoid neglecting God in times of prosperity. Those under authority are responsible for choosing good leaders. (Deuteronomy 16-18-19). **WE MUST VOTE!!** These verses anticipated a great problem the Israelites would face when they arrived in the Promised Land. Although they had Joshua as their national leader, they failed to complete the task and choose other spiritual leaders who would lead the tribes, district, and countries with justice and God's wisdom. Because they did not appoint wise judges and faithful administrators, rebellion and injustice plagued their communities. It is a serious responsibility to appoint or elect wise and just officials. Failing to choose leaders who uphold justice can lead to much trouble as Israel would discover.

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As I close from the text, let's look at verses 15-17 and unpack **point number three**.

**3: GENTLENESS (HUMILITY, SOFTNESS, TENDERNESS).** Gentleness is often overlooked as a personal trait in our society. Gentleness is love in action. Gentleness is being considerate. Gentleness is meeting the needs of others. Gentleness is allowing time for the other person to talk, and Gentleness is having a desire to learn. It is an essential trait for men and women.

**FREEDOM IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

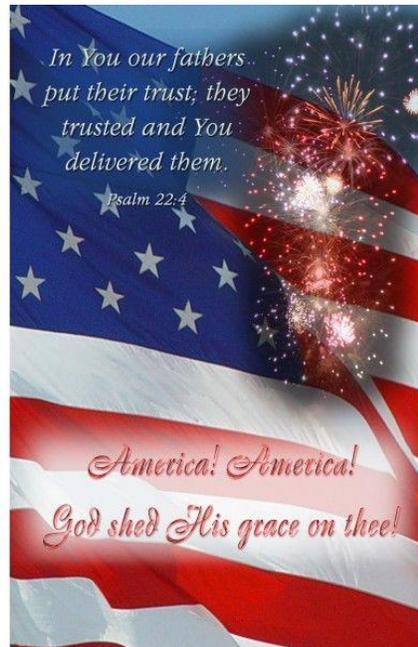
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HOT DOG

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Please check texts, e-mails and website for updates [johnschapelamec.org](http://johnschapelamec.org)

**ANNOUNCEMENTS –SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2020**



--Pastor White's message will be shown live on FaceBook. Enjoy other messages and services at church website: [johnschapelamec.org](http://johnschapelamec.org)

--We will continue our current worship system until the AME Church issues guidance, which the Pastor will pass along to us. In the meantime, please continue to pray, and heed all public directives regarding the **Coronavirus Pandemic**. **STAY SAFE – STAY HOME** as much as possible Stay abreast of the latest directives. [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) <https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov> [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org)

--Pastor White presents: **"SERMON DASH"**. You may receive a hard copy 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.

--Pastor White thanks Sister LauReen McDaniel for her leadership in JC's Drive Through COVID-19 Vacation Bible School during last week, and thanks to all who supported in any way. The daily lessons and crafts were excellent resources!! Great job!

**--ATTENTION: Johns Chapel will have "RECESS" ON NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 12. NO SERVICES AT JOHNS CHAPEL! PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.**

**WEEKLY OPPORTUNITIES TO WORSHIP & SERVE – Check e-mails and text messages for info**

--EACH SUNDAY – Worship service at **9:00 a.m.** Church School Lesson Summary **10:15-10:45** via conference call. Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936. Grab & Go – 10:45-11:45; Drive Up Worship in Cars – 12 Noon

--MONDAY-FRIDAY --Summer Feeding program. Carry-out Meals for Children ages 1-18 here at JC. **11:00 a.m.** For more info, please see Pastor White.

--EACH WEDNESDAY – JC Bible Study via conference call - 7:00 p.m. Dial-in # 605-313-5111 Access code 737936

--SATURDAY – **4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday** – Please remember to pray for our Nation as we celebrate its birth on July 4. Please be careful; be safe, and enjoy!

**PRAYER LIST Week of July 5-11, 2020**

-- Sister Annie Pearl Allen (wife of Brother Roland)  
--Sister Eleanor Bailey  
-- Jennifer Bigham – Doing well at home  
-- 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 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 Constance Jones & Family  
--Sister Mable Mays  
--Sister Ann McGaughey  
--Dr. Russell Nichols  
--Sister Minnie Powell, Mother of Sis. White  
--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**

July 9 Samuel Blake  
July 11 Dorothy Holmes

**NO ANNIVERSARIES ON RECORD THIS WEEK**



**--JC MEMBERS ARE OBEYING THE LAW AND RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS.**

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.

The following households have reported that they are ACCOUNTED FOR in the 2020 Census, as required by law and because they are good citizens:

--Pastor and Mrs. White & Family  
--LauReen McDaniel Family  
--Dianne Durdin & Michael Elcock Family

--Constance Jones  
--Carlos & Lynette Robinson  
--Mack & LaToya Chambers & Family  
--Ricky Britt & Family

--Bobby & Evadna Moment  
--Marion Griffin  
--Geraldine Booth  
--Dr. Russell & Mrs. Helen Nichols

--Ira "Pat" Brown  
--Johnnie Sanders & Family  
--Vernetta DeRamus  
--Dr. Stafford & Mrs. Bessie  
Thompson  
--Ann & Nikki Mills Family

--Richard & Shelia Robinson &  
Family  
--Betty Simmons & Vivian  
Johnson & Family  
--Ruthie Warren & Joe Warren Jr.  
Family  
--Franklin & Marge Simmons

--Sam & Hilda Blake  
--Jimmy & Lois Boykins  
--Gay Nell Miley  
--Shun Wilson  
--Jared & Ebony Simmons  
--Chad & Megan Simmons

**26 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](http://www.census2020.gov) and encourage others to respond. .

**To get our fair share of funding, we all must stand up and be counted.**

**NO SERVICES AT JOHNS  
CHAPEL NEXT SUNDAY,  
JULY 12, 2020.**

