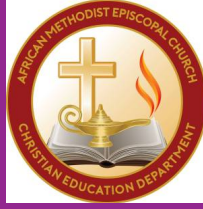


# IN THE NINTH HOUR!



July  
2020

---

*Inspiration*

---

*“The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23*

Thanks for reading the third edition of *In the Ninth Hour!* In this newsletter brought to you by the Southwest Alabama Conference Christian Education Department you will find news, information, and encouragement.

## A Message for YOU!

**Spiritual Discipline - In His Presence: James 1:2**  
*From Kingdom Living Daily Devotional by Dr. Tony Evans*

When a person’s carnality reaches the point of rejecting the Christian faith, many things can happen. Financial, emotional, social, and mental difficulties are just a few things that could catch up with them. If they live in persistent rebellion against God, God is going to discipline them. “We had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? For they discipline us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness” (Hebrews 12:9-10).

The purpose of God’s discipline is to bring us back to Him in reconciliation. He does not discipline in vengeance or because He is angry. Our parents disciplined us the best they could, but God perfectly disciplines every time. He knows everything. He knows what the carnal Christian has done, so God is never caught by surprise.

“All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful” (v. 11). A person living in carnality is going to experience discipline that will hurt. What is the difference between a Christian in the will of God going through trials, and a person out of the will of God going through discipline? If we are in the will of God, we can “consider it all joy” (James 1:2). If we are out of God’s will, we will not have joy in the midst of our problems.

## **COVID-19 UPDATE:**

***Please find below a link to the COVID-19 message from Bishop Adam J. Richardson Jr., Senior Bishop, African Methodist Episcopal Church:***

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKCvJg\\_sBXs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKCvJg_sBXs)



---

Manna

Musings

---

## TOPICAL STUDY OF THE MONTH

### **Topic of the Month—Wisdom in the Gospels**

This unit offers four sessions—one from each of the four Gospels—that examine the wisdom of God seen in the teachings and life of Jesus.

#### **July 5—Vindicating Wisdom**

People often label unusual or unexpected behavior as eccentric, foolish, or even wrong. People who act in such unusual ways are often vilified. In Matthew, Jesus says His and John's behavior, while unusual in their day, will eventually be proven wise by their subsequent deeds.

#### **July 12—The Boy Jesus**

Some young people amaze us with a wisdom that seems beyond their years. How should we respond to precocious wisdom? Ecclesiastes affirms that there is a time to speak and a time to be quiet. Luke records that the teachers in the temple were awed by the wisdom of 12-year-old Jesus, but Mary and Joseph were confused and exasperated.

#### **July 19—The Wisdom of Jesus**

Some people amaze us by displaying unexpected wisdom. Mark tells us that the people in Jesus' hometown were both astounded and offended by Jesus' wise teachings while the religious leaders were incensed when Jesus' wisdom challenged their traditions.

#### **July 26—Wisdom to Follow**

Some people say there are many paths to salvation. Just as Proverbs contrasted the way of wisdom with false ways, Jesus proclaimed that He is the way, the truth, and the life through whom His disciples would come to know God the Father.

---

**SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE**

**Mobile District ~ Camden District, ALABAMA**

---