

## "The Gospel And Black History"

### Robert T. Williams, BS

This book is dedicated to my wife, who drove me to live out the ideas that God gave me. To Thomas C. Oden, who has mentored me about my African Christian heritage by writing and authoring great books and answering the call of the Lord for his life. To Eric Mason and Jude 3 Project who shed light on the gospel and black history years before I wrote this book. You have inspired me greatly to share this information with my generation. I am not a genius. I am a man who has done a lot of reading and discovering, and through that, felt the Lord driving me to share the information I've learned. To my brother, you have been an inspiration and my lifetime accountability partner, I love you dearly. To my mother, you were my first Sunday School teacher and christian apologist. Your teaching molded me for the glory of God. To my family, I hope I make you proud and this book helps you as well. I love you. To my grandfather who passed away in 2018. You continue to inspire me with the legacy you left behind. To my grandmother, words can't express how much I love you, and thank you for all you've done for my family. To my pastor Lawrence Scott, thanks for taking me under your wing to guide me and be such a genuine man of God. Love you bro. To Justin Mclean, you are my friend forever, preaching partner and brother, much love to you. Azionne, you will always be my guy, and thanks for your support. To my brother's in the winner's circle. Love you

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE(R), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org (NASB), copyright

and thanks for always supporting me.

#### Introduction

In this day and age, our culture is obsessed with knowing themselves. This is not a desire so they can deal with others better but so they can have a full life filled with an abundance of being self-aware. This is a behavior that has been a deciding factor in the life of millennials who deal with hating their job, themselves, others, or not knowing their true identity. As a young black male, a Christian, and growing up in a single-parent home, I dealt with questions about my identity often. I was overweight, so at times I felt I was too fat to be important. I felt I didn't have the best smile nor was I photogenic, so I didn't like taking pictures often.

Being Christian and looking to live a holy life I was made fun of at times for trying to always do the right thing. I was called, "Choir Boy", "Church Boy", "Virgin Boy" etc.. because I didn't want to be like everyone else. I knew God made me for a bigger purpose. Thank God for being able to sing, dance, choreograph, and being proficient in the arts. I had an innate talent and passion for music. Being athletic was a major plus in life as I got older and enrolled in high school. I remember sitting in speech class and a young Latino male asked me out of nowhere, "Hey man would you like to play football, we could use some help on offensive line and defense". I thought to myself, well I definitely hate being in R.O.T.C. so I guess it can't be too bad.

It turned out great, after 4 years of football, 2 years of Varsity as a Letterman, 1st team All-Academic, 1st team All-Athletic, I graduated from Sharpstown High School in the top 25% of my class with two Full Scholarship offers. An academic Scholarship from Texas Southern University and a full Athletic scholarship from Wabash University in Indiana. Since I grew up in a single-parent home and I was the oldest of two boys I felt I should stay home. When your father decides to leave the family, normally the oldest son feels the burden of caring for the family or at least be in a position to cover them the best way he knows how. So while college was good for me, it made no sense to me.

I accepted the scholarship offered from Texas Southern University and decided to major in Pre-Pharm. I made the dean's list my first year but ended up losing my scholarship when my GPA fell .20 points below the mandatory GPA I had to maintain to keep my scholarship. I partied because I liked having fun, didn't study that much because I felt I was smart, and stopped buying books because I was broke and lived for refund checks. When I came back next semester I ended up changing my major because I started working overnight at Walmart.

Out of the 4 years I spent in college, I changed my major about 4 times and

ended up dropping out. In my mind, I had no reason to be in college. I wanted to work and pursue a career in music, become a successful recording artist, become rich and wealthy, and live the rest of my life free from the burden of a boss or supervisor. However, not really understanding who I was or who God wanted me to be caused me to live my life on a roller coaster.

I married my outstanding wife at 23, went from job to job throughout

our marriage, and when we had kids, going back to school and finishing was out of the question. Having kids, being a father and husband inspired me to pursue Christ more. I accepted my calling to the ministry/preaching at 27 years old. I was at my home church New Jerusalem Baptist Church for 27 years and decided to pursue serving on a greater scale when I joined a predominately white church in Pearland, Tx. (Yes, there is an issue here). This was such an outstanding time in my life though. I became an instant servant leader through praise and worship, Adult bible study, deaconship, Youth praise and worship, and becoming the Prayer Chairman of a major outreach

program at my church.

After 4 ½ years, It took a fast downfall when I challenged a false teacher in the flock and reported it to my pastor. I presented them with detailed notes and proper exposition of the text that my colleague taught out of context. After "Investigating" the matter, my pastor decided that there was no issue and they would not take action. This infuriated me. I felt disrespected and as if they called me a liar by not taking action. Many things went through my brain like, "They are doing this because I'm black", "They don't trust me because I don't have a degree". Sadly, when I sat down with my pastor to tell him I felt it was time to move on to a different ministry opportunity, the best reason he gave me to stay was

horrible. He said, "Robert, I'm not saying this because you're black, but

since you have started serving at this church, our congregation has

grown to be 50% African American. We could really use your servant attitude to make other African Americans feel comfortable being here and serving to give them a place of belonging and identity". This crushed me, because that day, I learned that my skin color is a major component of how I am valued in the white church, as well as a likely reason why I was welcomed to promote so many different aspects of service.

Once I left that church, I immediately started dealing with my identity

issues again. The difference this time was that it dealt more with my identity in Christ. I felt uncomfortable being African American and it was difficult not to turn my back on the church after being hurt by the church. During this time of living life and moving on, I started running into crazy allegations on social media of Christianity being a white man's religion. From Nation of Islam leaders to Egyptian mysticist, egyptologist, Hebrew Israelites, Islamic leaders, Nuwaupians, and other African American millennials and groups who felt blacks were introduced to Christianity during slavery.

At the age of 32, I started to dig deeper into this topic. It seemed so foolish, but the more studying I did, I started to understand where the Black Nationalist and black cults were coming from. I still don't agree but I do understand their questioning. When you look at the Transatlantic Slave Trade that began in Virginia in 1619, some of the slave masters claimed to be Christians. Some even had the equivalent theology degrees and others were pastors. In 1777 the Catholic King of Spain signed a document to approve slavery on its soil. To the untrained eye and the closed mind, it seems as if black people were born into chains. While some were, there is a rich history of Christianity in African culture starting from B.C.E. to slavery days to today.

Africans and African Americans have been living for Christ for centuries, no thanks to the slave masters' influence. I am writing this book because I feel God has called to me to join the fight in bringing the true Christian identity to the world. I am also writing this book to discuss the topic and dilemma of Christianity being the white man's religion and to debunk that ideology with African and African American church history education. I will discuss several topics in this book. First, we will look at the presence of Africans as well as African Americans in the history of the church. Second, we will observe the Transatlantic Slave Trade and answer

the looming question of how did slaves learn about Christianity. Was it forced on them by their slave masters? Third, we will look at the lies about slavery in the bible.

Cults and other skeptic religious organizations claim that not only was God okay with slavery but he condoned New World American Slavery. This is false and I will give several examples and references on how this statement is false. Fourth, I will expound on the origin of the word Christian and the history of Christianity as a religion.

Last, we will discuss our identity in Christ and who Christ created us to be. I feel that it would be a waste of time to discuss these topics without telling you who God created you to be and how your true identity hinges on a relationship with Christ. I pray that as you read this book, that these questions are answered clearly and vividly in a way that Christ reveals himself to you as only he knows how...Magnificently and Gloriously!

## **Chapter 1**

# **Church History: The African Presence in The History of The Church**

The first individual I would like to discuss is Apollos, the Alexandrian. We will walk through the text to get an understanding of the text. Acts 18: 24-28, 24- "Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the scriptures" We see in scripture that he was a Jew, this lets us know that\*\*ALL JEWISH PEOPLE ARE NOT WHITE\*\*.

Apollos had a jewish bloodline which is why he was jew, but he was born in Alexandria Egypt, so he was african/ egyptian because of his birthplace. The word eloquent needs to be expounded on. Greek term for eloquent in this passage means that he was a "Man of Letters". He was very well read, researched, and spent hours studying the arts, specifically in history and antiquities. You couldn't pull a fast one on him because he was most likely the sharpest one in the room and he knew the history and factual information.

Apollos was a brilliant thinker, studier of the word, and he spoke well enough to impact the community with the gospel. Apollos went to Ephesus, which was a 2,323.6 Km trip. It would take him 434 hours or 18 days to walk. It took him a long time to get there but Ephesus was a major city during that time. It was located in Turkey, which is in Asia. Alexandria is one of the top 10 oldest continuously inhabited cities in Egypt. When it says he was mighty in the

scriptures, it means that he was familiar with the scriptures, most likely the Dead Sea Scrolls (\*Isaiah, and the Pentateuch\*) at that time.

Acts 18:25 "This man had been instructed in the way of the

Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John." The text says that he was instructed in the way of the Lord, possibly had a solid and godly upbringing where he was taught about Jesus and the baptism of John. Fervent in the spirit, meaning he walked with the Lord, and he was burning/ warm/ hot for the gospel and full of the Spirit. His relationship with God allowed him to teach accurately the things of God. You can't teach the things of God accurately without having a proper relationship. This a small focus on the life of Apollos matching up with what he was teaching. He taught with total accuracy, He walked the walk and talked the talk.

There is this idea in christian culture where we are becoming obsessed with orthodoxy but despising true orthopraxy. He was acquainted only with the baptism of John. Acquainted in this context means that he had spent hours studying, learning, investigating and becoming familiar with the baptism of John. His study of the baptism of John most likely gave him clarity on other issues and opened the door to understand all things concerning the baptism of John like: The relationship with John the Baptist and Jesus, why Jesus chose John the Baptist to baptize him, the preaching of John the Baptist.

Acts 18:26 "And he begin to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately." Apollos spoke boldly and confidently with the knowledge he had. Priscilla and Aquila heard him and gave him insight or helped him by explaining some things to him about the ways of God.

This does not mean that Apollos was a false teacher, but there were some details he could have been leaving out possibly because he was only acquainted with the baptism of John. Priscilla and Aquila were helpful to him and the body of Christ by

Acts 18:27-28 " And when he wanted to go across to

explaining the ways of God more clearly.

Christ greatly.

Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace. (28) for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public demonstrating by the scriptures that Jesus was the Christ" Inspired by the help of teaching from Priscilla and Aquila he wanted to go to Achaia (Corinth) to further teach the scriptures in a mighty way like he was doing in the synagogue. His relationship with God, willingness to defend the faith and knowledge of scripture earned respect from other believers in the faith. The believers in Ephesus wrote to the believers in Corinth to welcome him and when he got

to defeat, oppose or show how the person you are debating has a contradiction or holes in their argument) the Jews in public by using the scriptures to show that Jesus was the Christ. Apollos used his bible knowledge and education to prove Christ was real by explaining the scriptures. He was an early church apologist.

there he used his gifts and wisdom he had and helped the body of

He powerfully refuted (refuted- Antikrouo / Greek term means

Things to note, Apollos was well trained in the scriptures before he went to Ephesus. Alexandria Egypt, his birthplace, was the most learned city in the Greco- Roman world. Since Apollos was mighty in the scriptures, this is proof that Christianity had already reached Egypt before Acts 18. Possibly around A.D.49-A.D.53) Mark, who wrote the gospel of Mark is said to have brought the

Apollos was a free man, he was not a slave. Apollos had accepted Christianity as his way of life by the

gospel specifically to Alexandria Egypt between AD 49-AD 53.

revealing of Christ and his acceptance of the Lordship of Christ over his life. This took place 1560+ years before slavery/ The Transatlantic Slave Trade.

I would like to shift focus and discuss John Mark's ministry and

missional journey. John Mark was chosen to be an assistant to Paul and Barnabas on the mission of evangelism to Antioch in A.D.43. (Acts 11:22-30). It later spreads to Jerusalem, Antioch, Seleucia, Cyprus, Salamis, Paphos, and Perga as John Mark is still working along with Paul and Barnabas (Acts 11:30) Then Paul and Barnabas take John Mark with them on the first Missionary trip (Acts 12:25-13:13). During this time when Paul, Barnabas, and Mark were on mission Mark left them and went back to Jerusalem when they were in Pamphylia. This left a bad taste in Paul's mouth and he refused to take John Mark along with him back to Antioch, So Barnabas took him with him to Cyprus around A.D. 50.

According to African tradition, Mark preaches, heals, ordains

the first bishop Anianus, and plants a church in Alexandria Egypt around this time (A.D. 49- A.D. 53). After that, he goes to Ephesus, then is requested by Paul to come to Rome with Timothy, A.D.64. Years later Paul and Peter are martyred in Rome and Mark is martyred April 26th A.D.68. Here is a quote from Thomas Oden's "How Africa Shaped The Christian Mind", "Geographically he covered more ground than Paul, according to African tradition. John Mark's connection to Jesus was evident when you look in the book of acts. The upper room was Mark's mother's house, and that house was also where Peter came after he was released from imprisonment by an angel of The Lord. John Mark's story, mission, and ministry have been kept alive through liturgy and synaxarium from African tradition and text. Mark's life's work has been documented by Athanasius, Cyril,

Origen, Pope Shenouda III, and many others. Even though

western Christianity doesn't speak of

it as much and as some even deny it, it's hard to ignore 2,000 years of evidence over 200 years of skepticism". (1)

Next, I would like to move to one of my favorite characters and

fathers of African Christianity as well as the church, Athanasius. He was born in Alexandria Egypt, between A.D.293-298. He was nicknamed the Black Dwarf, and was called into ministry in his teen years. It is said that Bishop Alexander heard him outside playing church. Young Athanasius was preaching the gospel as well as baptizing his pagan friends that were listening to his message. Bishop Alexander had him brought to him and examined him through questioning and conversation. (3).

Athanasius would later be discipled by Bishop Alexander as a reader,

as a deacon, then later would be consecrated as the next Bishop and would be very instrumental to the doctrine of the Triune God attributed to the Nicene Creed birthed in A.D. 325 at The Council of Nicaea. This was the first Ecumenical Council of the Christian church, called to order by Constantine I, who was not a true believer. There were 318 Bishops and Elders present but only five were from the western church. The settlement was over the divine nature of Christ and his relationship to God the Father, establishing uniformed observance of the date of Easter and promulgation of early canon law. There were Bishops from Asia Minor, Georgia, Armenia, Syria, Palestine, Egypt, Greece, and

Thrace.

saw him as a companion. Athanasius was remembered by many works of his life and dedication to Christ but one of the most prolific moments was his debate with Arius. Arius believed that Jesus Christ was not consubstantial or of the essence of God the Father but he was created by God the Father. Bishop Alexander and Athanasius succeeded in having the Council side with the truth about the nature of Christ. Athanasius became the 20th Bishop of Alexandria. He spent 17 years in

Athanasius was a young deacon at the time but Bishop Alexander

exile, five different times, by four different emperors. This was due to persecution to Christians still after the Council of Nicea and Edict of Milan.

As a Bishop, Athanasius wrote two treatises, "De Incarnatione" (On

The Incarnation) and "<u>Contra Gentes</u>" (Against The Heathen). Here are some of my favorite quotes and words from his treatise titled "On The Incarnation"

- "Dead men cannot take effective action"-
- "Deeds and actions that energize others only belong to the living"-
- "Does a dead man prick the consciences of men, so they throw all tradition of their fathers away to bow down before the teaching of Christ?" -
- "They laugh at that which is no fit subject for mockery, yet fail to see the shame and ridiculousness of their own idols."
- "Though He used the body as his instrument he shared nothing of its defects, but rather sanctified it by His indwelling."- (4)

He received many names towards the end of his life that the world would remember him by Athanasius Contra Mundum- (Athanasius Against The World), The Easter Doctor of The Church, Eastern Orthodox Church- Father of Orthodoxy. During his life, he was threatened to be killed and he fled several times from death. He died A.D. 373, May 2nd, and spent the last 7 years of his life fixing the damage done during the earlier years of violence, dissent, and exile. He is remembered in the Africa tradition on January 18th along with Cyril of Alexandria.

The next individual we will shine a light on is a prolific Christian scholar

named Quintus Septimius Florens Tertullianus. Due to the length of his name, I will call him Tertullian during this session of reading. Tertullian is named as a father of Western Christianity and is also felt to be very instrumental in the vocabulary and thought of Western Christianity. He was born around A.D. 160 and lived to A.D. 240. His birthplace was Carthage which was a Roman province in Africa at the time, modern-day Tunisia. There isn't much detailed information about his early childhood. It has been said that he had pagan parents. His father was a centurion for an African based legion in the province. Tertullian received an outstanding education in rhetoric, literature, and law. In his early twenties, he went off to college, worked as a lawyer and was converted to Christianity when he came back home to Carthage. It's said that he was very intrigued by the Christian religion. He felt there was something different about them and how they handled themselves with ridicule, persecution, rigorous living conditions, and

Tertullian dedicated himself to extensive writing and literary works from his 40's to '60s. "He was a pioneer and one of a kind writer. His flare, attitude, transparency, emotion, aphorisms, defensive wording, and sarcasm against opponents was a style of his own. In his writing titled "Apologeticus", he wrote to Roman magistrates his most pungent defense of Christianity. He expressed

his anguish of Christian persecution. He discussed at some length of

being martyred.

without even getting a trial. On the contrary, those who were murderers, thieves, and adulterers received a fair trial" (3).

This was a picture of the persecution Christians dealt with before the Edict of Milan, Council of Nicaea, and Edict of Thessalonica. He wrote several treatises: "Ad Uxorem", "De Patentia", "Adversus Marcionem", Adversus Valentinianos", Adversus Hermogenem", "De Resurrectione

Carnis". Following is a section of Tertullian's literary works cited from

Brittanica.com written by Robert L. Wilken and last updated 11-15-2017.

"He also wrote the first Christian book on Baptism, <u>De Baptismo</u>; a book on the

how Christians were being martyred, murdered, and treated unfairly

Christian doctrine of man, <u>De anima</u> ("Concerning the Soul"); essays on prayer and devotion, <u>De oratione</u> ("Concerning Prayer"); and a treatise directed against all heresy, <u>De praescriptione haereticorum</u> ("Concerning the Prescription of Heretics"). In addition to apologetical and polemical works, he addressed himself to a whole range of moral and practical problems on issues facing Christians of his day: what is an appropriate dress; the wearing of cosmetics, <u>De cultu feminarum</u> ("Concerning the Dress of Women"); service in the military, <u>De corona</u> ("Concerning the Crown"—a military decoration); whether one should flee under persecution, <u>De Fuga in persecutione</u> ("Concerning Flight in Persecution"); on marriage and remarriage, <u>De exhortatione castitatis</u> ("Concerning the Exhortation to Chastity") and <u>De monogamia</u> ("Concerning Monogamy"); on the arts, theatre, and civic festivals, <u>De spectaculis</u> ("Concerning Spectacles"); <u>De idollatria</u> ("Concerning Idolatry"); on

repentance after Baptism, De poenitentia ("Concerning Repentance"); and others".(5)

Quintus Tertullian advanced the development of early church Doctrine. He

orator and wrote 3 books in Greek. A 4th-century scholar named Jerome claims

was the first writer in Latin to use the word trinity (Trinitas). He was a famous

that Tertullian was ordained a priest in the African church of his province and

was very instrumental in the growth of the African church. Towards the end of

his life, he removed himself from the contemporary church and became a polarizing figure in a new prophetic movement called Montanism, (similar to Pentecostalism today). Modern-day scholars look to deny his influence because of his later life, some call him a heretic. However, there is no denying his influence on Latin Christianity and the western world of Christian thinking and writing.

In conclusion, the proof of African presence in the early life of the

(Pre-Transatlantic Slave Trade) is undeniable. The scholarly writings, extensive formal education, literary works, life application, and martyrdom is evident that their lives had been

church

changed by the blood of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
They took their relationship with the Lord seriously, spent most of their lives living for God, and continuing to perfect and pursue their calling for the kingdom.

#### **Chapter 2**

#### The Gospel and The Transatlantic Slave Trade

The Transatlantic Slave Trade is a dark, horrific, deathly stench on American and World History. Even though it is normally discussed during Black History Month, it is a part of history that most white people either look over or white evangelicals don't like to discuss. I have learned in life that trying to ignore the folly of your history gives you a great chance to repeat it. Being a black male in America is tough and being a black male Christian in America is even tougher. Why do I say this? My reasoning comes from years of serving in a predominately white church and growing up in the top 10 most dangerous neighborhoods in the country. The neighborhood I grew up in had multiple crack houses with a 3-4 block radius. Some of those addicts that I came in contact with daily or weekly were family members.

The economic pendulum was lopsided. The only grocery store we had was loaded with processed and unclean meats, protein, and veggies. There were no banks even 10-15 miles within living distance. I remember my grandmother, myself and so many others who lived in my neighborhood cashing our paychecks at a corner store called Standards. I didn't understand what a bank account was until I was in high school. It might seem like I'm off topic but please bear with me as I paint the picture of the generational oppression that slavery has caused to black people, the black church, and the body of the church as a whole. Not having the proper resources and not having equal resources can devastate an individual.

Growing up, I went to public schools that were in rougher than the average neighborhoods. The resources and availability of educational support were poor. Even the private schools were bad because it did not have proper makeup conducive for success. Even my college, where I am mentally focused on becoming a greater, more educated person, is not supportive of my dreams. On a campus of 10,000+ students, we had 1, yes 1, computer lab that was open to all students. I don't need to tell you that there were never enough computers available for use. I am thankful to my Lord and Savior for blessing me and my younger brother

with a mom who was adamant about giving us the tools to be successful and empowering us to never become statistics. What is the statistic for a black male growing up in a poor single-parent home?

Here's a quick list....

- more likely to commit a crime by age 15
- more likely to be convicted of a felon by age 21
- More likely to be killed by age 21

oppression in our modern world.

More likely to drop out of high school or college

Now, these are not all but they are some. I explain this, because slavery started a trend that the black man has been trying to fight against for centuries. That trend was murdering or destroying black fathers which also destroyed black families. The worst part about it as we deal with this issue daily is that our anglo counterparts pretend as if slavery wasn't THAT bad because we were freed in 1863 (which isn't true), now they claim we have the same opportunities. Even worse, some white evangelicals have been tainted by their past so much that even though they try to ignore it they repeat it. White privilege is a vicious beast that has propelled the anglo race and suppressed all others by default. I'm not saying white priviledge started slavery, but it definitely kept the criminals who profited from it out of jail.

Think about it... how easy would it be for you to be successful if you came into someone's house, beat the father almost to death, have sex with his wife in front of him, force him to have sex with his wife to have multiple children, then split them up and force the parents to work for you for free while you find someone of your choice to raise their kids.

In one swoop, you will have destroyed the family, ruined the father's confidence, traumatized the wife, ruined the kid's chances of being successful, or having a normal life and managed to start your own business as well. My heart wrenches with pain while typing this. This is something that went on consistently for about 250+ years but has devastated the black family, black church, and the church as a whole. In this chapter, we will discuss The Gospel and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, how it poisoned the reputation of the church, how slaves got the gospel, and the difference between New World American Slavery and Indentured servitude. We will also discuss what we can do to heal the body of Christ by fighting against

The TAST(Transatlantic Slave Trade) dismantled African civilization and exploded the European's launch of a new economy and lifestyle. The people involved were The French, The

Germans, The Dutch, The Spanish, The English, The Protestants, and The Africans. The estimated amount of money made from slavery from 1619 to 1865 (not including sharecropping) was \$14 TRILLION!!! Yes, TRILLION. This amount is equivalent to \$203,127,227,810,128.84 our time. Now you understand why it's so hard to own land if it has all been purchased up and held by whites during slavery and passed on to generations after them. The Homestead Act in 1862 was pivotal for white wealth. Over 150+ million acres of land were given away to whites for the price of a filing fee.

I would like to introduce a term called "Man Stealing". Individuals from European countries came to Africa, stole 11 Million plus people, and forced them to build the American economy and other European civilizations for free. They had the idea to keep them for long periods of time, force them to have children so they could earn a residual income off of the slaves' offspring. Here are just a few dynamics on how the French, Spanish, and American "so-called" Christians were involved and their practices:

- Partus sequitur ventrem (called partus, for short), stating that any children born in the colony would take the status of the mother. A child of an enslaved mother would be born into slavery, regardless of the father being a freeborn Englishman or Christian.
- Spanish would baptize Africans first before embarking (enslaving) them.
- They would share the gospel to enslave, instead of freeing them.
   (False Teachers)
- Louisiana: French slave owners and traders kidnapped Africans, gave them rights to marry, and the family to stay together, but they made sure to convert them to Catholicism before they enslaved them or after. They wouldn't free them though.
- America and slave trade- 50 years of Slave owning presidents.

oppression of the black race.

The influx of income for the Europeans was astronomical and the death rate of the African was like a nuclear bomb 100 times larger than the bomb of Hiroshima exploding in the middle of Texas. The most disgusting part is that most of these slave masters used the bible to enforce and approve of their behavior towards the Africans. This is a small list of individuals who claim to be Christian but saw no problem with slavery or conscious

- Robert E. Lee- Considered a kingdom man because he "hated" slavery but he publicly opposed racial equality and granting African Americans voting rights and other political rights. Robert E. Lee is quoted by saying, -"The blacks are immeasurably better off here than in Africa, morally, physically, and socially. The painful discipline they are undergoing is necessary for their further instruction as a race and will prepare them, I hope, for better things. How long their servitude may be necessary is known and ordered by a merciful Providence. (6)
- Duke of York- Royal African Company (He owned for Slavetrade business)-Protestant
- William Penn- Pennsylvania Quaker who owned slaves
- William Philip Perrin- Graduated from Westminster- owned 5 Jamaican Estates with slaves.

It is said that some Europeans felt that the African man and woman did

not have a soul, therefore God had no reason to be for them and they had

no real value on earth. This belief would bring on the concept of slave codes by the Catholic and British churches. The slave masters were said to be fixated on the scripture passage of 1st Peter 2:18-21 about obeying your masters, but somehow totally forgot to consider the gospel of Mark ch.12:30-31 about loving God with all your being and loving your neighbor as yourself. When you love God with all your mind, spirit, heart, and love your neighbor as yourself, you see every man and woman as a mirror reflection. This is recommended, knowing that we are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). The slave masters used the bible not because it was new to Africa but because Africa was familiar with scripture. In the first chapter, we discussed the rise of African Christianity 1500 years before the TAST. (TAST is short for "Transatlantic Slave Trade" I will use the acronym going forward).

I find it hard-pressed for them to be totally clueless about the context of scripture. However, I do understand that there were some areas in Africa that the gospel of Christ Jesus hadn't reached yet. I have always said that the Europeans did not oppress our ancestors into slavery by using the bible even though it seems that way to the guarded mind. However, they did enslave us by using whips, chains, violence, murder, rape, sexual assault, physical abuse, lynching, molestation, sodomy, male and female castration, and a myriad of horrific practices that Satan throws a party for.

In the 1600s, the Duke of York started a company called The Royal

African Company that became a catalyst to the TAST. That company itself was responsible for 350,000+ slaves being sold into slavery. They started the Royal African Company in a similar way that modern businesses do when launching a crowdfunding sale to build capital for their business campaign, marketing, etc.. Kings and other men of wealth or prominence from different coasts, rallied together to put specific amounts of income to receive a percentage of profits from The Royal African Company's success from the TAST. The hard conversation to have though, is that the Duke Of York considered himself a christian, he was a protestant.

So, I think it's interesting how during the protestant reformation, they

were painstakingly focused on contending for the faith against the Roman Catholic church but didn't think it was plausible to fight against slavery. The protestant movement will be remembered by the 5 Sola's; Sola Fide (By Faith Alone), Sola Christo (By Christ Alone), Sola Gratia (By Grace Alone), Sola Scriptura (By Scripture Alone), Sola De la Gloria (For The Glory of God alone) but somehow could not adhere to Mark 12:30-31: And you shall love the Lord God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is NO other commandment greater than these. I find it hard to believe that I can love my neighbor as myself but still see fit to chain him/her, beat him/her, rape him/her, and mentally, physically, and emotionally destroy them in the same breath. Yet, even through that, there was still a great number of men and women who were changed and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Here a few of the slaves who came to Christ and lived for him as a disciple and changemaker or as I would like to say, men of justice.

• Olaudah Equiano- Specifically, he became involved in working in Sierra Leone, a colony founded in 1792 for freed slaves by Britain in West Africa. He was a prominent abolitionist in the British movement to end the Atlantic slave trade. His autobiography, published in 1789, helped in the creation of the Slave Trade Act 1807 which ended the African slave trade for Britain and its colonies. Was converted to Christianity at the age of 14, when he went to spend time learning how to read, write, and become well educated with a family member of his master. Because of his connection to Britain, he was able to travel abroad after he bought his freedom. He was almost kidnapped back into slavery months after he bought his freedom. (8)

- Absalom Jones- First African American priest of the Episcopal Church. Born into slavery on November 6, 1746, in Sussex Delaware. Bought his freedom at the age of 38. One day at church service Absalom Jones, Richard Allen and other black men were pulled up from their knees and told to go pray in the segregated area. This infuriated them. Seven months later he and Richard Allen launched the Free African Society, a non-denominational religious and mutual aid organization. Absalom would later go on to construct and plant The African Episcopal Church in 1794. They would begin having Sunday services 3 years before the date of the church's acceptance into the Pennsylvania Diocese. Absalom Jones was listed as it's licensed Lay Leader. He was ordained a deacon in 1794 and a Priest in 1804. (9)
- Henry Mcneal Turner- Even though he was born a free man in 1834, his grandfather was kidnapped and brought to Britain. The British found out that his grandfather was a prince and since it was illegal to enslave anyone of a royal bloodline, they let him go free but would not let him return home to Africa. He learned how to read, became a lawyer, studied science as well as theology. He planted one of, if not the first AME churches in Atlanta Georgia. He was elected as the first black chaplain in the armed forces but removed from the position due to his stance or views on equality for African Americans and the horrible world of slavery (10).

Now, with that being said, I would like to discuss the idea of God being an advocate of New World American Slavery. First, let's get some definitions out of the way.

New World Slavery= Europeans traveling to Africa and capturing/man

stealing African Men, women, and children to work for free in America while building their land and cropping tobacco for free. After reading the evidence of what NWAS (New World American Slavery) truly was, I find it foolish to believe that God was okay with it. We have to learn to respect and understand the difference between what God ordains, and what God allows. It is also helpful to realize that by nature, men are evil, sinful, and selfish. We also have to understand that when you look at the Old Testament God in comparison to the New Testament God, there is a difference in how He judged the world but not a difference in His character. In the Old Testament, there was no sacrifice for man's sin other than burnt offerings, mosaic law, etc.. so God handled all judgment in his hand deciding who receives grace and favor. In the New

Testament, ALL of the judgment of man rests on the shoulders of The Lord's

sacrificial Lamb, His only begotten Son,

Jesus Christ. There were instances where God stepped in and judged some immediately though. So it might seem that God is slow to be present but he is giving us time to seek a relationship with His Son. (2nd Peter 3:8-10) By sending His son to die physically and conquer sin eternally, He has judged man eternally for the relationship man has with His Son Jesus Christ.

Now, even though God allowed these things to happen to African men

and women he did not ordain NWAS. There are reasons why I know this, as well as scripture references that I believe in that support this way of thinking. One, the motive behind NWAS was for economic gain and economic empowerment for the Slave Owner/Master but indentured servitude, what we see used in the bible was used for economic relief of the poor or the individual in debt. Leviticus 25:35-37 reads, "Now in case a [a]countryman of yours becomes poor and his [b]means with regard to you falter, then you are to sustain him, like a stranger or a sojourner, that he may live with you. 36 Do not take [c]usurious interest from him, but revere your God, that your [d]countryman may live with you. 37 You shall not give him your silver at interest, nor your food for gain." (Exodus 21:2) "If you buy a Hebrew slave, he shall serve for six years; but on the seventh, he shall go out as a free man without payment. 3) If he comes alone, he shall go out alone; if he is the husband of a wife, then his wife shall go out with him.

sold to you, then he shall serve you for years, but in the seventh year, you shall set him free. 13) When you set him free, you shall not send him away empty-handed. 14) You shall furnish him liberally from your flock and your threshing floor and from your wine vat; you shall give to him as the Lord your God has blessed you. 15) You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I

command you this today.

(Deuteronomy 15:12-15) "If your kinsman, a Hebrew man or woman, is

restitution: (Exodus 22:1-3. Exodus 21:6) The next scripture references are to How slaves were treated: Exodus 20:9-10, Exodus 23:12 talk about allowing yourself and your slaves to work for six days and rest on the seventh. (Exodus 21:16) "He who kidnaps a man, whether he sells him or he is found in his possession, shall surely be put to death." (Exodus 21:20)- "If a man strikes his male or female slave and he dies at

his hand, he shall be punished."(Exodus 21:26-27)- "If a man

The next reference is to involuntary Hebrew & Gentile criminals in

strikes the eye of his male or female slave, and destroys it, he shall let him go free on the account of his eye. 27) And if he knocks out a tooth of his male or female slave, he shall let him go free on the account of his tooth." Reference on man-stealing/kidnapping, (Exodus 22:21)- "You shall not wrong a stranger or oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt"

In Genesis 24:2, Abraham makes a covenant with the oldest

servant/slave in the house. In this passage, since the slave is the oldest male in the household under Abraham, he has charge of all that Abraham owns. So, we see that in the bible, here in the Old Testament, that slaves were seen as family and were able to share the inheritance with their masters. (Proverbs 17:2)- says, "A slave who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully, and will share in the inheritance among brothers. WOW! How gracious is the God of heaven and earth to put a mandate forward where a slave who was most likely in debt to his master or an indentured servant, be included in the will. That is a picture of the gospel. I can be born into sin and under the rule of bondage from Satan, but promised an inheritance from Christ Jesus through belief in his finished work on the cross!!! To God be the glory for his mighty hand of love and sovereignty!!

Finally, in **Leviticus 25:47-54**, we get an understanding of the Year of Jubilee set in place by the law, "Now if the [a]means of a stranger or a sojourner with you becomes sufficient, and a [b]countryman of yours becomes so poor concerning him as to sell himself to a stranger who is sojourning with you, or to the descendants of a stranger's family, 48 then he shall have redemption right after he has been sold. One of his brothers may redeem him, 49 or his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or one of his blood relatives from his family may redeem him; or [c]if he prospers, he may redeem himself. 50 He then with his purchaser shall calculate from the year when he sold himself to him up to the year of jubilee; and the price of his sale shall correspond to the number of years. It is like the days of a hired man that he shall be with him. 51 If there are still many years, he shall refund part of his purchase price in proportion to them for his own redemption; 52 and if few years remain until the year of jubilee, he shall so calculate with him. In proportion to his years, he is to

<u>refund the amount for his redemption. 53 Like a man hired year by year, </u>

<u>he</u>\_

shall be with him; he shall not rule over him with severity in your sight". We must understand that the bible is strictly against manstealing and every aspect of New World American Slavery. You will get the same idea when you read the bible, ask God for clarity, and don't look to social media or memes for education.

#### **Chapter 3**

#### The Gospel and The Christian Identity

One common debate between Christians and non-Christians is the origin of the word Christian or Christianity. According to Strong's concordance, the word Christian in greek is (Christianos)= It means to be of the anointed one or a follower of Christ. It derives from the word Christos, (which means Christ) Some things to consider:

- Acts 11:26: Believers meeting together in Antioch were first called Christians in Antioch
- Acts 26:28- Paul defense against Herod Agrippa II, where Herod told Paul, "You almost persuaded me to be a Christian"
- 1st Peter 4:16- Peter says, count it all joy to be persecuted as a Christian.
- Christian Greek (Christianos) taken from Christos- meaning a follower of the anointed one, or (Of) the anointed one.

Many people claim that we received this name from our enemies or the pagans.

I haven't seen any definitive scriptural proof, that makes that claim exactly. However, history notes that Antioch had a tradition of coming up with nicknames for others. So that is most likely why that saying even occurs. Some believers choose to use the word saint instead of Christian because of what they feel it derives from, a derogatory nickname for Christ-followers.

Either way, If it's in the bible, we can use it for instruction and growth. 2nd Timothy 3:16-17 supports that. I believe that if it is in the bible, then it is ok for me to use it for instruction and learning as well as application for daily life. No manmade name or cultural history has any authority over the bible or who the bible tells me I am. Besides, I don't care if people persecute me for me saying I'm Christian. I'm supposed to be persecuted, it's a part of the call to following Christ Jesus.

#### **CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION**

Next I would like to discuss the idea of Christian persecution. There are many who claim to be Christians that are not. For example, Catholics (Roman Catholic- Modern Day) Mormons, Jehovah's Witness, and others. Today Christians receive much persecution, especially if you are black. (Due to the White man's religion dilemma, or schism.)

Christians received much persecution during the 1st through the 3rd century and still receive a lot of persecution today. During the 1st - 3rd-century Christianity was illegal. Many Christians were martyred and condemned to exile for their religious beliefs and their relationship with Christ. Roman Emperors like Nero were known for burning Christians alive. Tertullian discusses this topic in-depth in his treatise titled "Apologeticus" which is a defense for Christianity against the Roman magistrates of that time. He has a quote that still rings loud and clear in modern times as he says, "You persecute us (Christians) for speaking truth without a fair trial, but you give the murderer, liar, defiler the luxury of a fair trial even though they are guilty of all charges against them".(7) This is so full of truth as we look at our world today and the Christian man or woman is seen as the enemy just

This has definitely been brought upon us because of so many false teachers, racist, and other individuals who claim the title but don't bear any good fruit or exemplify any fruits of the Holy Spirit.

by using the title Christian.

The Edict of Milan was called by and signed by Roman Emperors Constantine and Licinius to proclaim religious toleration, this was in 313 A.D. I think this is interesting knowing that Tertullian wrote his treatise between 180 A.D.-205 A.D. This means that christian persecution carried on for another 113 years until Diocletian ended the persecution of Christians and the Edict of Milan was birthed. 12 years later, 325 A.D., the Nicene Creed would be established at the Council of Nicea. This was called to order by the Roman Emperor Constantine to settle the debate and confusion over what Christians believed. There were 318 Bishops present with only 5 from the western world. Athanasius, an African bishop from Alexandria Egypt was present. He was brought along by the Bishop of Alexandria at the time due to his astute knowledge of scripture and Christian education. Tradition states that there was a debate between Athanasius and Arius on the deity of Christ and Athanasius' view was deemed accurate and true which gave birth to the

Nicene Creed. The Nicene Creed explains what we believe as Christians

or believers in Christ Jesus. Here is a copy of it from, "The Popular Encyclopedia of Church History" (pg. 58) We believe in one God, The Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; Of the same essence as the Father. Through Him, all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven; he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and was made human. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried. The third day he rose again according to the scriptures. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again with glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom will never end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, The Lord, the giver of life, He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son, and with the

He spoke through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to live in the world to come. Amen. (11)

The Nicene Creed actually clears up the confusion between different religions or groups who claim to be Christian but actually aren't, like Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons, and Roman Catholics. As believers, persecution is imminent and Peter tells us to count it all joy and a blessing when we are persecuted for being a Christian. As believers, we are called to duty as well as called to suffer as Christ suffered. This is not a honky dory piece

of cake, a problem-free, pain-free journey.

## **Christian Identity from Antiquity to Today**

- -Abyssinian Christianity- Ethiopia named the 1st Christian nation in the world.
- -Church Fathers- Athanasius, Tertullian, Origen, Augustine of Hippo, Ethiopian Eunuch.
- -313 A.D. Edict of Milan signed by Constantine and Licinius, which
  proclaimed religious toleration in the Roman Empire. It was issued
  in 313, shortly after the end of persecution of Christians by the
  emperor Diocletian.
- -King Eazana- Aksumite Kingdom- Christian is a Statewide religion in 330 A.D.
- -Adulis, Sanctuary for exiled Christians in (284 A.D.-305 A.D.)
- -Ethiopian Christianity endured through 1974, despite religious & political threats from all sides.
- -Solomonic Dynasty (Menelik)?
- -St. Frumentius 1st Bishop of Ethiopia (Consecrated by Athanasius, 20th Bishop of Alexandria, Egypt)
- In understanding the true history of Christianity, we see that it is rich with African history/presence. With so much historical proof, documentation, as well as archaeological proof, it is hard to still see Christianity as a white man's religion.

## **Our Identity in Christ**

I would like to spend the last part of this chapter to present an explanation for why our identity in Christ is important and how an identity rooted in the person of Christ gives us the power to conquer all through His name for his glory.

Who we are?- Galatians 3:26-29 For you are all sons of God

through faith in Christ Jesus. 27, For all of you who were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28, There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29, And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise. This passage lets us know that once you have become a part of Christs' family by belief in Him, your skin color is no longer a focal point of true identity. However, of course, it is a part of who you are but your relationship with Jesus trumps your skin color, nationality, bloodline, etc. His blood on the cross washed away all sins and covered all those who believe. There is nothing more important to your identity other than your relationship with Christ. What use is it to be royalty on earth but to not be a part of God's royal family where truth and justice are more important than status and prestige?

When we accept Christ as our savior, His spirit lives inside of us and begins to conform our image to His. I am not against loving who you are physically. By all means, love who you are, be thankful for the specific features that God gave you but don't fall into the trap of loving yourself more than your creator.

Genesis 1: 26-27, Then God said, Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. 27- God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

This is a picture of how God took out time and pleasure to create us in His own image. We were made in the image of the ALMIGHTY GOD! That is mindblowing! So no matter how you see yourself, understand that God made you in His image. He did this for his glory and your benefit. The same God that created the universe, made you in His image to subdue the earth and rule. We have authority from God to rule the earth, be fruitful, and multiply. What a blessing that is! Our identity is rooted in God's image and who He created us to be, the problem we have is adhering to His instruction and participating in the life He created for us.

1st Peter 2:9 But you are a CHOSEN RACE, royal PRIESTHOOD, A

HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you

may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness

into His marvelous light. This scripture passage lets us know God's plan for the believer. He says that we were chosen for God's own possession so we can proclaim His excellence of how He brought us out of darkness into His marvelous light. Please understand, outside of a relationship with Christ being your ultimate reflection of your identity, you don't have much but your physical features. God created you for more than just being black, white, Asian, Indian, native American, African, an engineer, a psychologist, a therapist, a store manager, a sales clerk, an entrepreneur. He created you to participate in the awesome privilege of bringing glory to

You can bring Him glory through your job, profession, or business ownership, but you can't place your job or profession over your calling and command to proclaim the excellencies of Christ. Him bringing you out of the darkness of sin, selfishness, self-hate, foolishness, evilness, pride, pain, loneliness, and eternal damnation into joy, love, and peace that surpasses all understanding is a MAJOR deal! That's worthy enough to tell the world about it!

the One who is the Father of all creation.

Ephesians 2:10,- For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. John 8:44 (If you are not of Christ) says, You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. This scripture passage lets us know our identity if we are not Christians or believers and followers of Christ.

We are born in sin because of Adam, the first man, falling away from the Lord when he sinned. So we are born with our identity being in sin and separation from God, even though God created us in His image. Having a Christian identity and being made in the image of God is separate.

God created us for a specific purpose, but we have a choice to

participate in that purpose. God created man in His image, but because of Adam, we are born in sin. As we grow in life, we have an opportunity to take on the identity in Christ that He set aside for us. Just being born and made in God's image does not give us Christian identity. Christ said in John 3 that we must be born again to see the kingdom of God. He was explaining this to a scholar named Nicodemus. He let him know that you will not enter your mother's womb again, but you must be born of the Spirit.

John 3: 3-6 - 3- Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of

God. 4- Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born again when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" 5- Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6- "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit".

I have listed some important questions that everyone needs to answer. I have also given the answers based on scripture for you to read for yourself. (Yes, you have studying and homework to do).

- 1. Where am Lacina 2.1 of Chronieles 20:11.12. Colotions 6:7
- 2. Where am I going? 1st Chronicles 29:11-12, Galatians 6:7, Isaiah 46:10.
- 3. What's best for the black community and every other community? Isaiah 1:16-17

Romans 14:1, 1st Timothy 5:3, Romans 16:17, Mark 12:31.

- 4. How do we achieve what's best for our community? James 1:27,
- Our identity is not in our skin color, names, job, career, family name, gender, location, education, organization, denomination, hairstyle, race, eye color, etc., but in our relationship with Christ.

# How do we change the world?

We will change the world by impacting where we are planted right now. It starts with a relationship in Christ Jesus. We must give our lives to Him to secure eternity with Him and to have a relationship with Christ so He can guide us and direct our lives. We must share the gospel at home and give our family and children a solid understanding of their identity in Christ. Once we do that we can effectively serve in the local church with confidence and assurance that we understand scripture with clear revelation from the Holy Spirit. Now once we have secured our households, and have been equipped to build the body of the kingdom, then we must go out into the world and make disciples. God gave us a command to go out and make disciples in all nations.

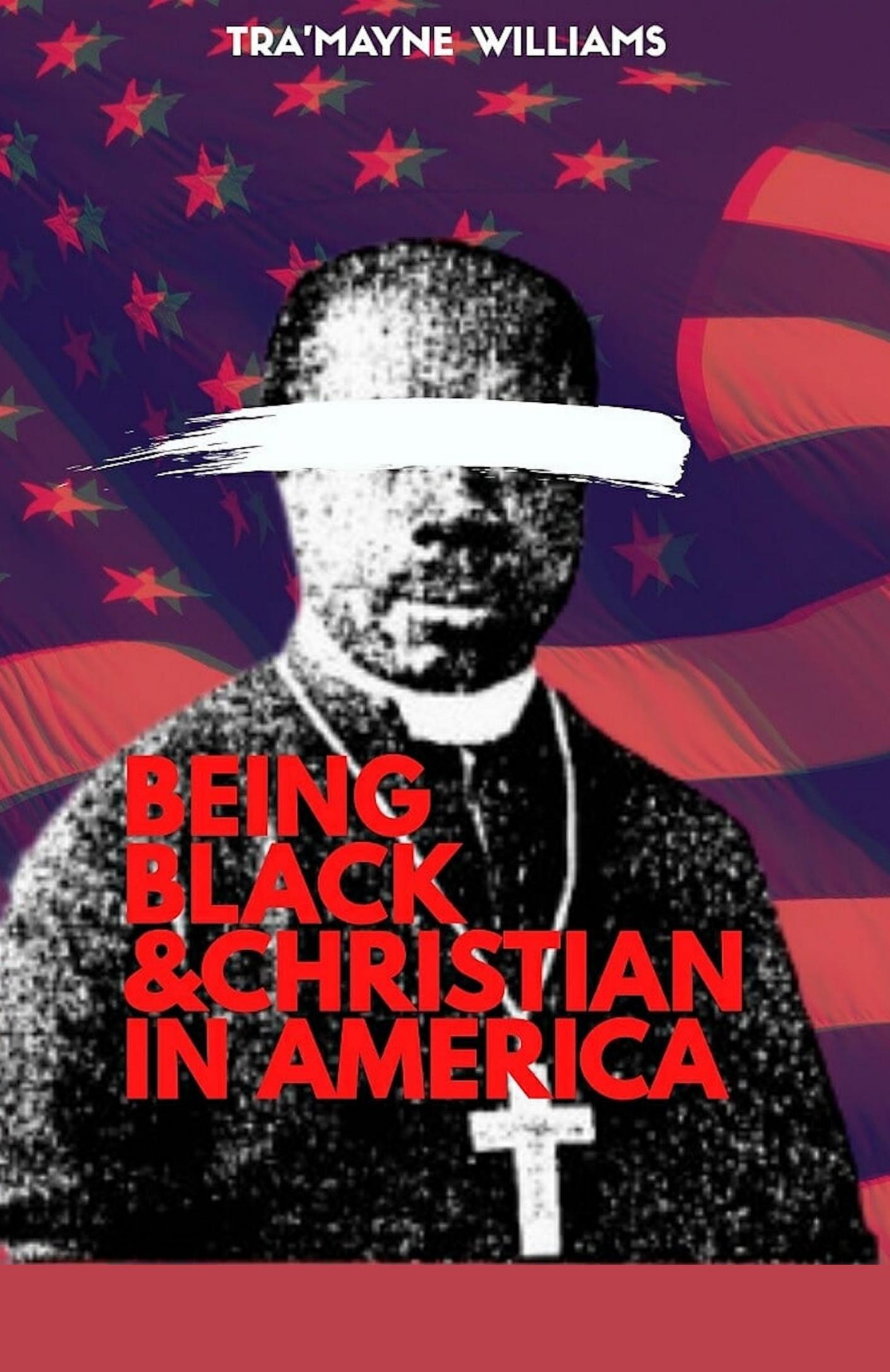
When we look at our example, Christ did this.

are glorified with the Father in eternity. Amen!!

We must fight for justice, for our fellow man, we must fight for the unbeliever's soul to be saved by Christ. We must speak up for the poor, the widow, the impoverished, the orphan, the disenfranchised regardless of their race, color, or creed. There are hundreds of nations around the world who identify themselves as believers, saints, Christians, and disciples of Christ. There are billions of people who do not have a relationship with Christ. We must maneuver through the world using the gospel of Jesus Christ as the tool for healing and redeeming every man and woman to see the glory of God revealed to them through us sharing the gospel truth. This gospel news is mandated by our Lord and Savior to share with the world and that should be our focus until we

#### References

- Oden C., Thomas- How Africa Shaped The Christian Mind. Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity.
   IVP Books, InterVarsity Press, (2007)
- 2. Habtemariam T. Semere. *Reflections on the History of The Abyssinian Orthodox Tewahdo Church*. Red Sea Press, (2017)
- 3. Hinson, Ed. Dan Mitchell. *Popular Encyclopedia of Church History*. Eugene, Oregon. Harvest House Publishers, (2013).
- 4. Saint Athanasius of Alexandria. *On The Incarnation*. (2016), Whitaker House.
- 5. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tertullian. Robert L. Wilken. Updated 11-15-2017.
- 6. Roper, Lee Gary. Antebellum Slavery: An Orthodox Christian View. Xlibris Publishing, (2009).
- 7. Bindley, T.H. THE APOLOGY.Quentis Septimius Florens
  Tertulliani. *Apologeticus Adversus Gentes pro-Christianis*.
  Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by T. H. BINDLEY, M.A.,
  Merton College, Oxford. (Clarendon Press. 1889.)
- 8. Gates Jr. Henry Louis. *The Classic Slave Narratives: The Life of Olaudah Equiano. The History of Mary Prince, Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl.* First Signet Classics Printing, (2012).
- 9. Newman, Richard. Freedoms Prophet: Bishop Richard Allen, The AME Church, and The Black Founding Fathers. New York University Press, (2009).
- 10. Johnson, Andre. E. *The Forgotten Prophet: Bishop Henry Mcneal Turner and the African American Tradition.* Lexington Books, Fortress Academic, (2014).
- 11. Geffert, Bryn., Theofanis, Stavrou. *Eastern Orthodox Christianity.* Yale University Press. (2016).



#### 1."ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT"

H-TINE GOT SOMETHING TO SAY/
WHILE I'M EATING BEATS LIKE DINNER ON A PLATE/
BARS LIKE ATHANASIUS THE GREAT/
GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY THE GAME/
TAKE NOTES WHILE YOU LISTENING MANE/
THIS BEAT GOING HARD IN THE PAINT/
THE EXTREME OPPOSITE OF NOVOCAINE, UUH/
WHO CARES WHERE THE BEST AT/ OR WHOEVER GOT THE BEST
RAPS/

MY BARS, FEEL EM' IN YO CHEST, LIKE A BIG SHOW CHEST SLAP/
AFRICAN CHRISTIANITY, MY CHURCH FATHERS BE TOO BLACK/
CHRISTIANITY THE WHITE MAN'S RELIGION, YA'LL ARGUMENT TOO
WACK/

MAN PLEASE WHERE YOUR SOURCE AT, TELL ME DOG WHERE YOU GET THAT/

YOUTUBE LINK, FACEBOOK MEME, OR THE WRAPPER OF A KIT-KAT?/

YA'LL REALLY A JOKE, STEADY SAYING YA'LL WOKE/
THOUGHT PROCESS BROKE, YA'LL DON'T REALLY WANT THE
SMOKE/

FALSE IDEOLOGIES AND SILLY PHILOSOPHIES ARE AN ATROCITY/
I KNOW YOU MAD BUT YOU WATCHING ME, ONLY THE SPIRIT IS
STOPPING ME/

HE GAVE ME THE LYRICS TO DROP HEAT, BUT HIS GLORY IT'LL DROP KNEES/

ALL PRAISE TO THE MIGHTY KING, I WAS TRIPPING BUT HE GOT ME/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT
CHRIST IN MY LIFE ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT

#### Verse 2

REPPING THE WOKE CHURCH, NO SIR IT'S NOT A RELIGION/
IT'S SOUND DOCTRINE AND RICH THEOLOGY, WE ACTIVE ON
MISSION/

ISAIAH 1:17, SEEKING JUSTICE LIKE GOD TOLD US/
NO FAVORITISM IN THE BODY BRUH, IT'S FAIR WHEN WE ROLL UP/
WE DEFEND THE OPPRESSED, HELPING THOSE WHO ARE STRESSED/
THEN LEAD THEM TO CHRIST, IN HIM FIND REST/
WE LOOK AFTER THE ORPHANS, AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS/
THIS IS WHAT GOD ACCEPTS, HE SAID IT'S FAULTLESS/
THESE THINGS DON'T REPLACE THE GOSPEL, WE KNOW THAT/
BUT WE STILL DOING THE WORK THOUGH, WITHOUT THEM KODAKS/
NOT LOOKING TO OUR OWN INTEREST, BUT THE INTEREST OF
OTHERS/

LIKE THE HOMELESS AND THE POOR, SINGLE FATHERS, SINGLE MOTHERS/

DOPE DEALERS AND PROSTITUTES, MURDERERS THAT GOT LIFE/
PEDOPHILES AND THE RACIST YEP, THEY CAN FIND HOPE IN CHRIST/
HE'LL CHANGE YOUR LIFE MANE, TURN THE WHOLE THING AROUND/
HE DID IT FOR ME, ALL THE WAY IN H-TOWN/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT,
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT,
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT,
CHRIST IN MY LIFE, ATHANASIUS ON THE SHIRT.

"THERE IS THUS, NO INCONSISTENCY BETWEEN CREATION AND SALVATION, FOR THE ONE FATHER HAS EMPLOYED THE SAME AGENT FOR BOTH WORKS, EFFECTING THE SALVATION OF THE WORLD THROUGH THE SAME WORD WHO MADE IT IN THE BEGINNING."--ST. ATHANASIUS, FROM HIS BOOK "ON THE INCARNATION"

#### 2 "C.O.C.A. COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA"

THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA/
BIRTHED IN THE FIRST CENTURY AND STILL GOT THE STAMINA/
STILL PUMPING THROUGH CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION/
KNOWN WORLDWIDE FOR THEIR APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION/
LARGEST CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST/
GUESS THAT'S WHY THE MIDDLE EAST STILL GOT PEACE/
MY BAD, I FORGOT A DEFINITION/
WHAT ARE COPTICS, MAN THAT'S EGYPTIAN CHRISTIANS/
AFRICANS WHO LOVE THE LORD AND BELIEVE/
JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS AND ROSE FOR YOU AND ME/
THE FIRST BISHOP WHO PLANTED THE ALEXANDRIAN CHURCH/
WAS THE MARK THE EVANGELIST, HE STARTED THAT WHOLE
WORK/

AFTER MARK CAME ANIANUS/
PUT IN 22 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP MAN, I WAS ASTONISHED/
AFTER ANIANUS WAS ABILIUS, BUT WE JUST GETTING STARTED
THE NEXT VERSE GETS SERIOUS.

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
C.O.C.A. COCA! COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH LIT I'MA SHOW
YA,

C.O.C.A. COCA! IT'S GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY MANE,
THOUGHT I TOLD YA,

C.O.C.A. COCA! COPTIC ORTHODOX LIT I'MA SHOW YA, C.O.C.A. COCA! IT'S GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY MANE, THOUGHT I TOLD YA

NEXT IN LINE WE GOT CERDO/
10 PLUS YEARS IN MINISTRY NO FURLOUGH/
GOT ARRESTED, AFTER THAT GOT MARTYRED/
CAUSE HE WOULDN'T BOW DOWN TO NOBODY BUT GOD THE
FATHER/

NEXT CAME PRIMUS, NUMBER 5/
FILLED WITH GOOD DEEDS ASCETIC AND HE WAS PIOUS/
BISHOP NUMBER 6 WAS JUSTUS IN THAT JAWN/
PREACHING, TEACHING, AND REACHING BEFORE HARVEST
POINT/

THE FIRST DEAN OF THE CATECHETICAL SCHOOL/
OF ALEXANDRIA, SAY MANE THAT'S TOO COOL/
NUMBER 7 EUMINUS, ALL ABOUT CHRISTIAN MISSION/
ORDAINED AND SENT PREACHERS TO NUBIAN PROVINCES/
THIS WORD IS FOR THEM WHITE MAN RELIGION FOLK/
WHO BE THINKING THEY WOKE, BUT THEIR VISION IS BROKE/
LIKE EPHESIANS, ARISE O SLEEPER/
GIVE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST HOMEBOY, HE'LL BE YA REAPER/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
C.O.C.A. COCA! COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH LIT I'MA SHOW
YA,

C.O.C.A. COCA! IT'S GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY MANE
THOUGHT I TOLD YA,

C.O.C.A. COCA! COPTIC ORTHODOX LIT I'MA SHOW YA, C.O.C.A. COCA! IT'S GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY MANE THOUGHT I TOLD YA

# 3."RUNNING WITH AHMAUD"

#### **VERSE 1**

WHEN YOU SEE ME MAN, WHAT DO YOU SEE?/ A DOPE DEALER, A THUG, A DOPE FIEND?/ A MURDERER, A RAPIST, AND ANIMAL?/ OR A MAN, A FATHER, A HUMAN BEING?/ SHO BARAKA WAS RIGHT, WE COULD COMPROMISE/ BUT WHEN WE OPEN OUR DOORS WE GETTING COLONIZED/ WHEN WE CLOSE OUR DOORS, WE GET OSTRACIZED/ WHEN WE OPEN OUR EYES THOUGH WE CAN SEE THEM LIES! HE SAID THE FORMER, I SAID THE LATTER/ WE NOT FOOLED BY THAT WHITE SUPREMACIST CHATTER/ CLAIM TO LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR BUT YOU PORTRAY HATE/ CLAIM TO LOVE SCRIPTURE, BUT YOU'RE AN APOSTATE/ I PRAY SOMEBODY GIVES YOU THE GOSPEL/ CUZ YOUR LIFE TOWARDS GOD IS REAL HOSTILE/ ONLY CHRIST CAN GIVE YOUR LIFE SUBSTANCE/ I'M PRAYING FOR YOU MAN, WHILE I'M STILL PRAYING FOR JUSTICE, AHMAUD.

CHORUS,

SEE I'M A JUST BLACK MAN,

AND JUST LIKE YOU, I GOT A FAMILY,

AND IF YOU DON'T SEE COLOR, MY BROTHER,

HOW WILL YOU EVER SEE ME?,

I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD, I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD

ARBERY,

I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD, I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD

ARBERY.

BREONNA TAYLOR DEAD BUT THEM COPS STILL FREE/
THEY NEED TO BE FIRED, AND PUT IN JAIL PLEASE/
SHE WASN'T EVEN 30 BUT THE SYSTEM DID HER DIRTY/
RAN IN THE HOUSE LETTING OFF SHOTS IN A FLURRY/
HOW CAN I FORGET, ELIJAH MCCAIN/
KIND LIKE A KID, TREATED LIKE HE WAS DERANGED/
BLACK PEOPLE HURTING MANE, WE ALL BLEEDING/
WE ALL IN PAIN, ALL OUR HEARTS LEAKING/
I'M TIRED OF BLACK FOLKS KILLED/
DEAD IN THE STREET, I'M HAVING NIGHTMARES STILL/
WHEN WILL IT STOP, WHEN THEY GONE TREAT US EQUAL/
BREONNA TAYLOR DEAD, AHMAUD AND GEORGE WERE THE
SEQUEL/

SOMETIMES I'M JUST MAD, SOMETIMES I WANT TO CRY/
BUT I'M A FIGHT FOR JUSTICE TIL' I'M ON THAT OTHER SIDE/
CELEBRATE JUNE NINETEENTH STILL WANTING FREEDOM/
GIVE YOUR LIFE TO CHRIST THOUGH MANE WE ALL NEED EM'/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X

SEE I'M A JUST BLACK MAN,

AND JUST LIKE YOU, I GOT A FAMILY,

AND IF YOU DON'T SEE COLOR MY BROTHER,

HOW WILL YOU EVER SEE ME?,

I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD. I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD

ARBERY,

I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD. I'M RUNNING WITH AHMAUD

ARBERY.

# 4. "JUST WANNA WORSHIP"

IT'S A BLESSING AND HONOR TO CALL YOU MY DAD/
YOU TAUGHT ME NOT TO CARE ABOUT THE LATEST FADS/
TAUGHT ME HUMILITY WHEN I WANTED TO BRAG/
YOU KEPT IT 100 WHEN I LIED TO YOU/
YOU HEARD ME SO CLEAR WHEN I CRIED TO YOU/
NEVER TURNED YOUR BACK WHEN I LEFT YOU ALONE/
YOUR OMNIPRESENT NATURE NEVER LEFT ME ALONE/
YOU WERE THERE FOR ME, BEFORE I MADE IT HERE/
YOU'RE ALL POWERFUL LORD, JUST TO MAKE IT CLEAR/
YOU LOVE ME EVEN MORE WHEN I MESS UP/
GOTTA FESS UP, WITHOUT I'M NOTHING, BUT WITH YOU I'M
BLESSED UP/
LORD, I COULD NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH/

LORD, I COULD NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH/
BUT I THANK YOU FOR DYING ON THE CROSS AND GETTING
IIP/

RISING SUNDAY MORNING WITH ALL POWER IN YOUR
HANDS/
I JUST WANNA WORSHIP YOU LORD, YEAH THAT'S THE
PLAN/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
I JUST WANNA WORSHIP YOU,
LIKE YOU DESERVE,
IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH,
BUT THROUGH MY WORDS,

LORD I JUST WANNA WORSHIP YOU IN ALL OF MY DAYS/
IN ALL OF MY LIFE LORD, IN ALL OF MY WAYS/
BE IN ALIGNMENT WITH YOU LORD, WHEN I SAY YOUR NAME/
NEVER GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT WHEN I GIVE YOU PRAISE/
I WANNA MAKE YOU PROUD LORD, WHEN I SERVE AT CHURCH/
GIVE IT ALL I GOT, WHEN IT COMES TO KINGDOM WORK/
SHOW EVERYBODY ON THE PLANET HOW YOU LOOK IN ME/
BE A LIGHT TO THE THUGS, THE CRIMINALS AND G'S/
DO MY BEST TO SHOW MY DAUGHTERS HOW TO LOVE YOU
FIRST/

THE OLDER THEY GET, THE MORE THEY UNDERSTAND THEIR WORTH/

THE REALEST EVER IS MY CREATOR, HE'S WITH US DAILY/
IT COULD NEVER BE A MAN CUZ WE SO SHADY/
LORD, I COULD NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH/
BUT I THANK YOU FOR DYING ON THE CROSS AND GETTING
UP/

RISING SUNDAY MORNING WITH ALL POWER IN YOUR HANDS/
I JUST WANNA WORSHIP YOU LORD, YEAH THAT'S THE PLAN/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
I JUST WANNA WORSHIP YOU,
LIKE YOU DESERVE,
IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH,
BUT THROUGH MY WORDS.

HARD TIMES SEPARATE THE MEN FROM THE MICE/ IN MY CASE, IT BROUGHT ME CLOSER TO CHRIST/ I FOUND OUT I COULDN'T DO IT ON MY OWN/ MY LIFE WAS ORCHESTRATED BY A KING ON THE THRONE/ NOW I'M A CHANGED MAN, HE GAVE ME A NEW LIFE! SO I SHINE BRIGHT, HUNDRED KILOWATT LIGHTS/ TRYING TO TELL YA'LL HIS LOVE A-1/ HIS GUIDANCE PERFECT, THE BEST PROTECTION/ I PROVIDE FOR THE FAM, CUZ HE PROVIDES FOR ME/ HE BE OPENING DOORS, AND HE BE HOLDING THE KEY/ SEE HE HUMBLED YA BOY, PRIDE MADE ME SLIP! SO NOW I STAY IN MY LANE CUZ HE BE DRIVING THE WHIP! LORD I COULD NEVER THANK YOU ENOUGH! BUT I THANK YOU FOR DYING ON THE CROSS AND GETTING UP/ RISING SUNDAY MORNING WITH ALL POWER IN YOUR HANDS/ I JUST WANT TO WORSHIP YOU LORD, YEAH THAT'S THE

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
I JUST WANNA WORSHIP YOU,
LIKE YOU DESERVE,
IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH,

BUT THROUGH MY WORDS.

# 5. "BLACK DIAMONDS"

I'M A BLACK DIAMOND I DON'T SHINE MUCH/
BUT EVERYBODY I KNOW GET CHILLS FROM MY TOUCH/
OUTSIDE SPOTTED, INSIDE BLEMISHED/
STILL TOP QUALITY JUST TOOK LONGER TO FINISH/
SEE I WAS CREATED, CLOSE TO THE EQUATOR/
YOU CALL IT THE HOOD, I CALL IT SOUTH ACRES/
THE PLACE WAS REAL HOT, THE CLOSEST TO HELL/
BUT I WENT THROUGH THE PRESSURE AND MADE IT OUT
WELL/

YOU PROBABLY THINKING THAT WAS ROUGH FOR MY BIRTH/
BUT I WAS CREATED BY THE CREATOR OF EARTH/
THE LOWEST IN CLARITY BUT THE GREATEST OF VISION/
DARKEST IN MY CLASS SO CAN'T NOBODY MISS EM'/
SINCE I TOUCHED DINE, MANE I BEEN ON A MISSION/
TO BLESS THE WORLD THROUGH MY GIFT AND MY MISSION/
MY BAD MINISTRY, I KNOW YOU LISTENING/
I WAS SENT BY GOD, I CAME TO BLESS THE INDUSTRY/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
WENT THROUGH THE PRESSURE, WENT THROUGH THE PAIN
WENT THROUGH THE STORM, WENT THROUGH THE RAIN,
AND WE STILL SHINING,
CUZ WE'RE BLACK DIAMONDS,

THE FLOW MEAN, JUST AS MEAN AS I'M SPITTING IT/ LINGO CLEAR, SO I KNOW THAT YOU GETTING IT, UUH/ BEATS A PITCH I'M ALTUVE HITTING IT, UUH/ I LOVE THIS GAME, I'M SO SERIOUS YEAH! BUT I LOVE THE LORD EVEN MORE/ FOR CLEANING ME UP, AND OPENING UP DOORS/ I NEVER WORE A TIME PIECE LIKE KORS/ BUT I NEVER HAD TO RESULT TO BUSTING THEM 4'S/ A BLACK DIAMOND, I'M OH SO RARE/ GOD SPENT EXTRA TIME ON ME MANE, I SWEAR/ AND EVEN THOUGH FOLKS JUDGE, I DON'T CARE/ CUZ' I KNOW I'M LOVED, AND FAVOR IS FAIR/ AND BY HIS STRIPES I AM HEALED! AND I'M GONE MEET HIM, WHEN I LEAVE HERE! I'M TALKING BOUT' JESUS CHRIST, THE BRIGHT LIGHT! THAT GIVES ME THE A-1 SHINE IN MY LIFE, CUZ' WE/

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
WENT THROUGH THE PRESSURE, WENT THROUGH THE
PAIN,
WENT THROUGH THE STORM, WENT THROUGH THE
RAIN,
AND WE STILL SHINING,
CUZ' WE'RE BLACK DIAMONDS

# 6. "COUNCIL OF NICEA"

#### **VERSE 1**

THE COUNCIL OF NICEA WHAT WAS IT REALLY BOUT?
AN EGYPTIAN HERETIC WHO WAS CHASING CLOUT?
OR CONSTANTINE CREATING CHRISTIANITY?
OR THE CHURCH FIGHTING FOR SPIRITUAL SANITY?
LET'S TALK ABOUT A MAN NAMED ARIUS/
CLAIMED SOUND DOCTRINE BUT HIS TEACHING WAS
NEFARIOUS/

THEOLOGICAL FOOLERY/

HE CLAIMED CHRIST WAS CREATED BY GOD INSTEAD OF
HAVING TRIUNE UNITY/

RESPECTED BY THE ALEXANDRIAN CHURCH AT FIRST/
BUT HIS HERETICAL TEACHINGS STARTED TO HURT/
THE BODY OF CHRIST AND ALEXANDRIAN BELIEVERS/
CLAIMING TRUTH, BUT HE WAS A REALLY A DECEIVER/
HE SAID GOD THE FATHER, WAS GOD/
BUT JESUS WAS SUBORDINATE TO THE FATHER, NOT
GOD/

ALSO CLAIMED CHRIST, WAS NOT THE DIVINE WORD/ BUT IF YOU READ JOHN 1, YOU KNOW THAT'S ABSURD.

CHORUS, 2X
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL WHAAAAT,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL OF NICEA

NOW WE DISCUSS ALEXANDER, MAN OF SPIRITUAL STAMINA/

BISHOP OF THE COPTIC CHURCH OF ALEXANDRIA/
HE WROTE LETTERS THAT EDIFIED THE CHURCH/
ROOTED IN SCRIPTURE AND DEEP BIBLICAL WORK/
HE SAID CHRIST WAS THE SON OF THE FATHER/
BUT HAD THE SAME NATURE AS THE FATHER FOR
STARTERS/

HE WAS A MAN OF THE TEXT, SO HE KNEW/
THIS CLAIM WAS SUPPORTED BY THE FIRST CHAPTER IN
HEBREWS/

ALEXANDER WAS RIGHT, ARIUS WAS WRONG/
BUT SETTLING DIFFERENCES WOULD TAKE KIND OF LONG/
CONSTANTINE HEARD ABOUT THE SEPARATION/
THEN TOLD THEM BOTH TO SEEK RECONCILIATION/
AND AFTER THIS, AN AGREEMENT SEEMED DOUBTFUL/
SO CONSTANTINE CALLED THE FIRST ECUMENICAL
COUNCIL/

A.D. 325 WAS THE YEAR/
AND THAT'S HOW WE GOT THE COUNCIL OF NICEA.

THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL WHAAAT,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL OF NICEA.

THE CONSCIOUS COMMUNITY CLAIMS/
CHRISTIANITY WAS CREATED AT THE COUNCIL MANE/
AND IF YOU READ REAL SOURCES, YOU'LL KNOW THE
TRUTH/

THAT'S WHERE MY CONFIDENCE LIES WHILE I'M IN THE BOOTH/

PRESENT AT THE COUNCIL, 300+ BISHOPS/
90 PERCENT FROM THE EAST, NOT THE WEST, LISTEN/
FROM TURKEY TO INDIA, THEY WAS ALL ABOUT THAT
ACTION BRUH/

BISHOP ALEXANDER, WAS FROM AFRICA/
UMAR JOHNSON, SAID IT WAS EUROPEANIZED/
BUT IF YOU READ A BOOK YOU CAN SEE THEM LIES/
CHRISTIANITY'S BEEN RELEVANT, SINCE THE 1ST CENTURY/
BUT THE COUNCIL WAS CALLED TO GET CLARITY/
ON WHAT CHRISTIANS BELIEVE/
WAS JESUS CREATED OR WAS HE G-O-D?/
ON THE TRUTH, THEY FINALLY AGREED/
AND WROTE A DOCUMENT, CALLED THE NICENE CREED.

THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL WHAAAT,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL,
THE COUNCIL, THE COUNCIL OF NICEA

# 7. "THE GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY" VERSE 1

I READ ABOUT A MAN NAMED ATHANASIUS/
IF GLOBAL IMPACT WAS ICE, HE'LL BE A GLACIER/
HE WROTE BOOKS LIKE "ON THE INCARNATION"/
ABOUT CHRIST JESUS AND SALVATION/
20TH BISHOP OF THE COPTIC ORTHODOX CHURCH/
ORDAINED AS A TEENAGER, HE PUT IN WORK/
HE HAD A QUOTE "DEAD MEN CAN'T TAKE ACTION"/
TALKING ABOUT HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT'S LIVING AND
ACTIVE/

JUST LIKE THE WORD OF GOD/
CUTTING THROUGH YOUR BONES, SOUL, AND YOUR SPIRIT
AND YOUR MARROW/

ATHANASIUS LIVED IN THE 3RD CENTURY/
BUT I PROMISE YOU, GOD'S EYE IS STILL ON THE
SPARROW/

THE SAME WAY HE PROTECTS ME, HE CAN PROTECT YOU/
THROUGH AND THROUGH, THAT'S WHAT HE DO/
TO THE POINT HE GAVE HIS LIFE FOR YOU/
IF YOU ACCEPT THAT MAN, HE BRINGS LIFE TO YOU (CHECK
IT).

THE GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY,
WE'VE BEEN FOLLOWING THE LORD FOR YEARS,
I KNOW IT SOUND LIKE A MYSTERY,
BUT LISTEN CLOSE, I'LL MAKE IT CLEAR.

NEXT ON THE DOCKET, APOLLOS/
STAR ON THE SON'S TEAM LIKE CEDRIC CEBALLOS/
HE WAS A JEW, AND ALEXANDRIAN BY BIRTH/
HE GAVE HIS LIFE TO CHRIST AND DID KINGDOM WORK/
ELOQUENT SPEECH, HIS WORDS PAINT PICTURES/
DID MINISTRY IN EPHESUS, AND HE WAS MIGHTY IN THE
SCRIPTURES/

INSTRUCTED IN THE WAY OF THE LORD/
THOUGH HE WAS ONLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE BAPTISM
OF JOHN/

HE SPOKE BOLDLY IN THE SYNAGOGUE/
THEN PRISCILLA AND AQUILA HEARD HIM GOING HARD/
SO THEY PULLED HIM ASIDE, THEN GAVE HIM SOME GAME/
ABOUT THE WAYS OF GOD AND HOW TO EXPLAIN/
THE WAYS OF GOD MORE ACCURATE/
AND THAT'S HOW HIS TEACHING GRADUATED TO
IMMACULATE/

WENT TO ACHAIA AND REFUTED THE JEWS/
DEMONSTRATING BY THE SCRIPTURES, THAT CHRIST IS
TRUE/

CHORUS 2X

THE GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY,

WE'VE BEEN WORSHIPPING THE LORD FOR YEARS,

I KNOW IT SOUNDS LIKE A MYSTERY,

BUT LISTEN CLOSE, I'LL MAKE IT CLEAR.

# 8. "WALKING IN THE SPIRIT"

I'M WALKING IN THE SPIRIT LETTING GOD LEAD/ JUST SO I CAN KEEP UP WITH GOD'S SPEED/ FLESH SLOWING ME DOWN, SO I GOTTA FIGHT IT/ I'M AT WAR WITH IT NOW, EVEN WHILE I'M WRITING/ I WALK BY FAITH NOT SIGHT/ WHEN I CAN'T SEE THE WAY, THE LORD GIVES ME LIGHT/ SO THE DARKNESS IS GONE/ I REMEMBER A TIME WHEN DARKNESS WAS HOME! STRUGGLED WITH SIN, AND IMPURE THOUGHTS/ BATTLING MY DEMONS WHILE BEARING MY CROSS/ I THOUGHT I WAS STRONG BECAUSE I PLAYED BALL/ FOLLOWING THE DEVIL EVERYTIME HE CALLED! THEN GOD CALLED MY NAME/ TOOK AWAY THE PAIN, AND MADE ME UNASHAMED/ NOW THAT'S REAL CUZ I LIVE FOR HIM/ WHEN HE LEADS THE WAY, THE FAILURE IS PRETTY SLIM.

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
I'M WALKING IN THE SPIRIT/
IT'S REAL, SO I FEEL IT/
GIVING ME THE GAME/
NOW I LIVE LIFE UNASHAMED/

I'M WALKING IN THE SPIRIT LETTING GOD LEAD! JUST SO I CAN KEEP UP WITH GOD SPEED/ FLESH SLOWING ME DOWN SO I GOTTA FIGHT IT/ I'M AT WAR WITH IT NOW EVEN WHILE I'M WRITING/ I AM THE LORD'S WORKMANSHIP/ CREATED FOR CHRIST AND HIS PURPOSES/ NEVER TO LIVE BY BREAD ALONE/ BUT THE WORD OF GOD KEEP ME FED AND STRONG I'M LED BY THE SPIRIT SO I'M A SON OF GOD! THAT'S YAHWEH, ELOHIM, MEAN'S HE NOT A FRAUD/ REAL GOD GIVING REAL DIRECTION/ IN HIS WISDOM, I FIND PROTECTION/ GOD OF JUSTICE AND LOVE/ AND RIGHTEOUSNESS FROM THE HEAVENS ABOVE/ THE DEVIL IS A LOVER, YOU KNOW HOW I KNOW THAT BRO?/ CUZ I'M WALKING IN THE SPIRIT BRO.

CHORUS, REPEAT 2X
I'M WALKING IN THE SPIRIT,
IT'S REAL SO I FEEL IT,
GIVING ME THE GAME,
NOW I LIVE LIFE UNASHAMED.

# 9. "TOKENISM"

VERSE 1 I DON'T WANT TO BE A TOKEN! NAW BRO NO JOKING/ I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY BLACK TEACHING BIBLE STUDY CUZ YOU FOCUSED/ ON MAKING SURE YOUR WHITE CHURCH! LOOK A LITTLE MORE DIVERSE/ NEVER REALLY CARED ABOUT MY GIFTS, YOU JUST WANTED ME TO SING FIRST/ GAVE ME ABOUT FIVE TITLES! I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT I'M A LEAD FIRST/ THEN I ASK FOR A SALARY MAN, YOU TELL ME GET A **DEGREE FIRST/** MAN, I KNOW AT LEAST FIVE PEOPLE, AND THEY ALL GOT STIPENDS/ AND I SERVE MORE THAN ALL OF THEM TOGETHER/ YA'LL KNOW THAT'S TRIFLING/

I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR TOKEN NEGRO,
CUZ I GOT TALENT, SHOW ME OFF TO THE PEOPLE,
THAT AIN'T WHAT IT IS,
COME ON YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS,

I GREW UP WITH EM', SO I'M SURE/
BUT WHEN IT'S TIME FOR THAT MISSION WORK/
WHY GO ALL THE WAY TO HONDURAS?/
YES, I KNOW THEY POOR DUDE, BUT SO IS THIRD WARD TOO/
4TH WARD AND 5TH WARD, SOUTHWEST, SOUTHEAST TOO/
EASTSIDE AND THE NORTHEAST, EVERYWHERE I SEE POVERTY/
FIVE CHURCHES ON SIX BLOCKS, HIGH SUPPLY LOW
DEMANDING/
BUT WHEN I ASK AROUND, THE COMMUNITY FEEL SO
ABANDONED/
OH YOU RAISED \$50 MILLION GOOD, BUT WHY SPEND IT ALL
ON A BUILDING/
YES I'M BLACK BUILL DON'T HIST PLAY SPORTS/

YES I'M BLACK, BUT I DON'T JUST PLAY SPORTS/
I'M A SCIENTIST, ECONOMIST/
I'M A JUDGE IN COURT/
I'M A DOCTOR, I'M A FARMER, AND I'M A LAWYER TOO/
AND I WAS MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE/
I SHOULD BE MORE THAN A TOKEN TO YOU/.

I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR TOKEN NEGRO,
CUZ I GOT TALENT SHOW ME OFF TO THE PEOPLE,
THAT AIN'T WHAT IT IS,
COME ON YOU CAN DO BETTER THAN THIS.

(I DON'T WANT TO BE A TOKEN, I DON'T WANT TO BE A TOKEN, I DON'T WANT TO BE A TOKEN)

### 10. "THE STRUGGLE IS REAL"

#### **VERSE 1**

ALL HAIL TO THE KING OF THE JEWS/
I'LL BE BRAGGING ON THIS SONG, TELLING YA'LL WHAT IT DO/
HOW CHRIST DIED ON THE CROSS, SAVED ME FROM MY SINS/
WITH EVERLASTING POWER, HE DON'T HAVE TO DO IT AGAIN/
ALL I HAD TO DO WAS BELIEVE, IN J TO THE E/
S-U- TO THE S, NOW YOUR BOY LIVING FREE/
AND I'M LIVING IN VICTORY CUZ I'VE BEEN BLOOD BOUGHT/
AND I KILLED MY OLD WAYS, NOW THEY LYING IN CHALK/
ALL PRAISE TO GOD, HE THE REASON I'M WINNING/
SENT HIS SON AS A SACRIFICE, HE THE REASON I'M WINNING/
HOLY SPIRIT THE REALEST, HE GIVES ME THE CONVICTION/
AND THEY ALL WORK TOGETHER, JUST LIKE A MOTOR WITH
PISTONS/

SEE I KNOW WHAT YOU MISSING, BUT YOU TRYING TO BE COOL/

AND BE ACCEPTED BY FOLKS, WHO LIVING LIKE FOOLS/ SAY MANE, I WAS A FOOL, NOW BOYS CALLING ME WISE/ AND A CHILD OF GOD BRO, TELL ME THAT AIN'T LIVE.

CHORUS 2X

STRUGGLE IS REAL BUT WE ON NOW,

STRUGGLE IS REAL BUT WE ON NOW,

BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH I'M SAVED NOW,

WHOLE LIFE FELL APART BUT I'M WHOLE NOW.

SIT BACK RELAX, SIMMER DOWN, FREE YOUR MIND FOLK/

AND IF YOU NEED A CHILL PILL, HERE'S YOUR ANECDOTE/
I GOTTA LET IT GO, I'M TALKING BOUT THEM RHYMES/
PUT EM' ON THE PAD, LIKE A HELICOPTER LANDED BY A PRO/
NOW THAT'S PERFECT, NO FLAWS, NO BLEMISH/
JUST LIKE THE LORD'S SALVATION WORK FINISHED/
SEE I WAS LOST, THAT'S WHAT MY LIFE WAS MISSING/
A DOWNRIGHT PURGING, A SPIRITUAL CLEANSING/
YOUNG CAT FROM THE H, NO POPS HOME/
BUT MY MOMMA STAYED ON ME LIKE THE BRONCOS/
DEFENSE DURING SUPERBOWL 50/
AND KEPT ME IN THE CHURCH, PUT THE BELT ON ME SWIFTLY/
PROTECTION WAS A MUST, MOMMA REALLY BELIEVED IN
THAT/
WE COMING FROM THE HOOD, WHERE THEM CATS WILL

EMPTY THE GATS/

IT'S REAL IN THE FIELD, WE WAS TRYING TO LIVE/
NO FATHER AROUND MANE, WHO GONE PROTECT THE KIDS?/

CHORUS 2X
STRUGGLE IS REAL BUT WE ON NOW,
STRUGGLE IS REAL BUT WE ON NOW,
BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH I'M SAVED NOW,
WHOLE LIFE FELL APART BUT I'M WHOLE NOW.

I'M BENDING CORNERS ROLLING LATE AT NIGHT/ AND I AIN'T GETTING INTO NOTHING BUT I'M ROLLING TIGHT/

I GOT MY CAR WASHED UP WITH THE WORKS TOO! FRESH PAIR OF JEANS, NEW KICKS AND A SHIRT TOO! I AIN'T EVEN GOT IT ON, I AIN'T TRYING TO STUNT/ INSOMNIA GOT ME UP BRO I CAN'T EVEN FRONT/ I'M RIDING THROUGH THE SOUTHSIDE ON A SATURDAY/ JAMMING JERED SANDERS' ALBUM, "HURRY UP AND WAIT"/ NOW THAT'S A CHH CLASSIC/

SOUND DOCTRINE BARS, THE WINDOWS DOWN, THE MUSIC **BLASTING/** 

TALKING TO GOD GETTING CLARITY ON THE PASSION/ BUT THIS FOR MY LIFE BRO, SO PLEASE STOP ASKING/ I'M RIDING THROUGH THE TREY NOW, AND IT'S CRAZY LIT/ JUNKIES WALKING THE STREETS BRO, YOU AIN'T MADE FOR THIS/

I DIDN'T THINK I WAS EITHER, BUT I MADE IT THROUGH! COMING UP IN H-TINE BOY, STEADY JAMMING SCREW.

CHORUS 2X

STRUGGLE IS REAL, BUT WE ON NOW, STRUGGLE IS REAL, BUT WE ON NOW, BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH, I'M SAVED NOW, WHOLE LIFE FELL APART, BUT I'M WHOLE NOW.

#### 11. "A CHRISTIAN FROM CARTHAGE"

#### **VERSE 1**

QUINTUS SEPTIMIUS FLORENS TERTULLIANUS/
CHURCH FATHER FROM AFRICA BRUH, NOT ASIA MINOR/
BORN IN CARTHAGE, MODERN DAY TUNISIA/
WROTE TREATISES ON HOW TO TAME THE BEAST IN YA/
OR BETTER YET, THE SIN THAT YOU BE DEALING WITH/
OR CONTROL THE TONGUE THAT YOU BE SPITTING WITH/
HE WAS OF BERBER ORIGIN/
GOT A LIBRARY OF AUTHORSHIP WRITTEN IN LATIN LITERATURE
YEAH HE WAS GOING IN/

YEAH HE WAS GOING IN/
CHRISTIAN APOLOGIST/

WENT HARD FOR THE KINGDOM DOG, HE HAD TO TELL EM' WHAT

THE GOSPEL IS/

CHRIST CRUCIFIED, DIED FOR YOU AND I/
AND ROSE FROM THE DEAD, YA'LL THOUGHT IT WAS SUICIDE/
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOU LIVING A LIE/
OR YOU LIVING ON THE TRUTH CUZ THE HOLY SPIRIT INSIDE/
LIKE HE LIVED INSIDE OF TERTULLIAN/
ACCEPT CHRIST AND LORD AND SAVIOR BRO, AND YOU CAN
WIN.

CHORUS 2X

BEFORE THE JIM CROW PRECAUTIONS,

AND BEFORE SLAVE AUCTIONS,

THE GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY WAS THE TOPIC,

TODAY WE TALKIN' BOUT A CHRISTIAN FROM CARTHAGE.

TERTULLIAN WAS BORN IN A.D. 155, 1400+ YEARS BEFORE THE SLAVETRADE/ SKIN COLOR LOOKED SOMETHING LIKE CHOCOLATE, DEFINITELY THE TOTAL OPPOSITE OF LEMONADE/ HE WROTE A BOOK NAMED APOLOGETICUS, WRITTEN TO THE ROMAN OFFICERS AND THE MAGISTRATES/ THE REASON WAS TO DEFEND CHRISTIANITY, AND EXPOSE THE TRUTH ABOUT ROMAN HATE/ AND THE PERSECUTION THEY DEALT WITH/ BY BEING BURNED ALIVE AND GETTING THEIR FLESH SLIT/ **ALL FOR BEING SELFLESS/** AND RELYING ON JESUS CHRIST TO SAVE US FROM OUR **DEATHWISH (UUHH)/** LABELED THE FATHER OF LATIN CHRISTIANITY, FIRST TO USE THE WORD TRINITY OR PHRASE TRINITAS/ FOUNDER OF WESTERN THEOLOGY, BUT WITHOUT CHRIST JESUS BOY, YA SOUL IS LOST!/

CHORUS 2X

BEFORE THE JIM CROW PRECAUTIONS,

AND BEFORE SLAVE AUCTIONS,

THE GOSPEL AND BLACK HISTORY WAS THE TOPIC,

TODAY WE TALKIN' BOUT' A CHRISTIAN FROM CARTHAGE.

(TRA'MAYNE WILLIAMS ON DA TRACK MANE)!!

WE OUT!!

# 12. "IMAGO DEI (OUTRO)"

#### **VERSE 1**

I'M WRITING THIS SONG CUZ THE PAIN IS STRONG/ THESE BARS GON' HURT LIKE A KIDNEY STONE/ I'M LOOKING AT MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST/ THE BLACK AND BROWN FAM, AND THE ONES THAT'S WHITE/ SOME FIGHTING WITH ME, YEAH I KNOW THAT/ TO THE ONES WHO ARE SILENT, WHERE YOUR VOICE AT?/ KAEPERNICK TAKES A KNEE, YA'LL SCREAMING/ INNOCENT BEING SPILT ON THE STREET, YOU NOT STEAMING?/ UNARMED BLACKS GETTING MURDERED, YOU NOT HOT?/ EXECUTED BY THE FORCE, TARGETED BY THE COPS?/ EVERYTHING LOOKS DIFFERENT IN THE WORLD NOW/ MY CONVERSATIONS ARE DIFFERENT WITH MY GIRLS NOW/ WHAT I TELL EM, YOUR SKIN IS BEAUTIFUL TO DAD?/ BUT WHEN WHITE AMERICA SEES IT, THEY'LL BE MAD?/ CUZ THEY DON'T SEE YOU THE SAME/ BUT GOD LOVES YOU, YOU WERE MADE IN HIS PICTURE FRAME/

#### **CHORUS**

STANDING FOR UNITY GOT TO KILL THE HATE,
SPEAKING UP AGAINST OPPRESSION IN MY OWN WAY,
I DON'T WANT MY LIFE TO BE ENDED BY HATE,
WE'RE ALL MADE IN THE IMAGO DEI.

WHILE I WAS WRITING, SAW A POST FROM MY SISTER/
SOME PEOPLE IN HER FAMILY, WANTED TO DISMISS HER/
ALL BECAUSE SHE WHITE, BUT LOVE BLACK PEOPLE/
AND HATE RACISM, SHE THINK EVERYBODY EQUAL/
SHE RECOGNIZES HER WHITE PRIVILEGE/
BUT FOR THE NEXT PERSON, SHE'S WILLING TO KILL IT/
RACHEL GILMORE WILLIAMS, I LOVE YOU SIS/
AND I HOPE YOU GET HEALING FROM THIS/
MATTHEW AND STACY TODD/
Y'ALL STEPPED IN AND HELPED US, WHEN LIFE HIT HARD/
DURING HURRICANE HARVEY, WE WERE SOMETHING LIKE
QUARANTINED/

BUT YA'LL FOUND A WAY TO BRING US GROCERIES/
YOU LOVE MY WIFE, YA'LL LOVE OUR KIDS/
I KNOW YOU GOT MY BACK, DURING TIMES LIKE THIS/
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A FRIEND TO ME/
THANKS TO MATT FOR SHOWING INTEREST IN MY
MINISTRY/

## **CHORUS**

STANDING FOR UNITY GOT TO KILL THE HATE,
SPEAKING UP AGAINST OPPRESSION IN MY OWN WAY,
I DON'T WANT MY LIFE TO BE ENDED BY HATE,
WE'RE ALL MADE IN THE IMAGO DEI.

MY CITY LOST A GREAT ONE, GEORGE FLOYD/
FROM THESE H-TINE STREETS, BUT GAVE HIS LIFE TO
GOD/

DID MINISTRY WITH RECONCILE, AND COREY PAUL/
IN THE CUNEY HOMES WHERE IT'S NOT EASY TO
SMILE/

REST IN PEACE, TO BREONNA TAYLOR/
I'M PRAYING FOR YOUR FAMILY NOW, AND LATER/
REST IN PEACE TO DAVID MCATEE/
YOU WERE MURDERED, WHILE HELPING YOUR
COMMUNITY, MAN.

#### **REFERENCES**

- 1. ODEN C., THOMAS- HOW AFRICA SHAPED THE CHRISTIAN MIND.
  REDISCOVERING THE AFRICAN SEEDBED OF WESTERN
  CHRISTIANITY. IVP BOOKS, INTERVARSITY PRESS, (2007)
- 2. HABTEMARIAM T. SEMERE. REFLECTIONS ON THE HISTORY OF THE ABYSSINIAN ORTHODOX TEWAHDO CHURCH. RED SEA PRESS, (2017)
- 3. HINSON, ED. DAN MITCHELL. POPULAR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF CHURCH HISTORY. EUGENE, OREGON. HARVEST HOUSE PUBLISHERS, (2013).
- 4. SAINT ATHANASIUS OF ALEXANDRIA. ON THE INCARNATION. (2016), WHITAKER HOUSE.
- 5. HTTPS://WWW.BRITANNICA.COM/BIOGRAPHY/TERTULLIAN.
  ROBERT L. WILKEN. UPDATED 11-15-2017.
- 6. ROPER, LEE GARY. ANTEBELLUM SLAVERY: AN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN VIEW. XLIBRIS PUBLISHING, (2009).
- 7. BINDLEY, T.H. THE APOLOGY.QUENTIS SEPTIMIUS FLORENS
  TERTULLIANI. APOLOGETICUS ADVERSUS GENTES PROCHRISTIANIS. EDITED, WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES, BY T. H.
  BINDLEY, M.A., MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD. (CLARENDON PRESS.
  1889.)
- 8. GATES JR. HENRY LOUIS. THE CLASSIC SLAVE NARRATIVES: THE LIFE OF OLAUDAH EQUIANO. THE HISTORY OF MARY PRINCE, NARRATIVE OF THE LIFE OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SLAVE GIRL. FIRST SIGNET CLASSICS PRINTING, (2012).
- 9. NEWMAN, RICHARD. FREEDOMS PROPHET: BISHOP RICHARD ALLEN, THE AME CHURCH, AND THE BLACK FOUNDING FATHERS. NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS, (2009).
- 10. JOHNSON, ANDRE. E. THE FORGOTTEN PROPHET: BISHOP HENRY MCNEAL TURNER AND THE AFRICAN AMERICAN TRADITION.

  LEXINGTON BOOKS, FORTRESS ACADEMIC, (2014).
- 11. GEFFERT, BRYN., THEOFANIS, STAVROU. EASTERN ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY. YALE UNIVERSITY PRESS. (2016).