



Zion Hill Baptist Church

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Rev. Jimmy L. Gates, Sr., B.A., M.Div., Pastor

Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Call In: 701-802-5360

Access Code: 7817353

Join Sunday School at

9 a.m. online –

Call in 978-990-5047 ~

Access 3312613#

You can watch Sunday
messages on our website -

www.zionhill-mbc.org.



August 2, 2020

Announcements:

Responsive Reading today –

I Samuel 13:5-14

FROM THE PASTOR:

Wednesday Bible Study online at 7 p.m. – see phone number to call in on the cover of bulletin.

Sunday School online on Sunday's at 9:15 a.m. - see phone number to call in on the cover of bulletin.

As of now we are coming back to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 6, 2020.

If you are not feeling well, please stay home until you're better.

THE CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the LORD Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrine; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, and the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintance; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just to those in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. AMEN.

FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR.....

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”

II Timothy 4:8

These are among the Apostle Paul's last words, and they are bathed in unutterable despair. The old man, his hair whitened with age, his face furrowed with care, his body worn with disease and damaged by brutal persecution, is a captive in a miserable dungeon in prison in Nero's Rome; and although his speech breathes the calm of heaven, yet the wretchedness of his imprisonment makes him regret that he left "a cloak at Troas" that would have warmed him in the winter's biting cold, or shielded him from the dungeon's perilous damp. Still more keenly does he regret that he has to face his loneliness without the tender solace of his son Timothy's presence, and the cheering companionship of his "books and papers." It is a hard lot for the aged Crusader; but he is a hardy and chivalrous knight, who has braved a thousand perils in love for his Divine Leader, and therefore he is not cast down.

Notice, first, the quiet courage which looks death full in the face without a tremor. The language implies that Paul knows his death hour is all but here. "I am already being offered" the process is begun, his sufferings at the moment are, as it were, the initial steps of his sacrifice "and the time of my departure is come." The tone in which he tells Timothy this is very noticeable. There is no sign of excitement, no tremor of emotion, no affectation of stoicism in the simple sentences. He is not playing up to a part or pretending to be anything which he is not. If ever language sounded perfectly simple and genuine, this does. With an unforced courage Paul fronts his fate and

looks death in the eyes. The anticipation does not dull his interest in God's work in the world, as witness the warnings and exhortations of the context. It does not withdraw his sympathies from his companions. It does not hinder him from continuing his studies and pursuits, or from providing for small matters of daily convenience. If ever a man was free from any taint of fanaticism or morbid enthusiasm, it is this man waiting so calmly in his prison for his death.

"For I am already being offered, and the time of my departure is come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." Paul had looked too often into death's dark face to be afraid of it now. Yet, after all, that is but a little thing to say. There are many to whom death is no longer "the shadow feared of man," who have not Pastor Paul's high hope. Some there are, indeed, who welcome death; it is for them the one door of escape from the unutterable pain and weariness of life. Paul welcomed death because he saw beyond death. But with Paul it was from death today. "Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day. The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and will save me unto his heavenly kingdom." What is Nero's judgment-seat and the executioner's flashing brand to the man who holds that faith?

Here stands a man face to face with the last enemy in a far more terrible form. But I can sense the thoughts of the Apostle Paul content in knowing, "Victory Shall Be Mine"