

**Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.**

**Call In: 701-802-5360**

**Access Code: 7817353**

**Join 9 a.m. Sunday School online? - Call in 978-990-5047 ~ Access 3312613#**

**You can watch Sunday messages on our website -** [**www.zionhill-mbc.org**](http://www.zionhill-mbc.org)**.**

**Zion Hill Baptist Church**

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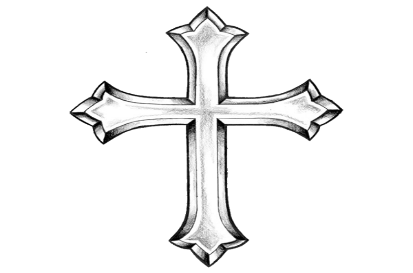
Rev. Jimmy L. Gates, Sr., B.A., M.DIV. Pastor

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**August 23, 2020**

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The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9



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22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. Lamentations 3:22-23

**Announcements:**

Responsive Reading today:

II Samuel 1:11-12, 17-27

**FROM THE PASTOR**:

**Zion Hill’s 103rd Anniversary** is September 6,

2020. The theme is *"Growing Stronger, Growing*

*Deeper, Reaching Higher"* Isaiah 40:31

**Colors are White and Purple**. Each ministry is asked

for a minimum $100.00 donation. If any member is not

a member of a ministry, you can make your

contribution to your ministry of choice.

**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 are better.**

**FROM THE HEART OF THE PASTOR……………**

*“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.”* James 1:1-4

After the inscription and salutation Christians are taught how to conduct themselves when under the cross. Several graces and duties are recommended; and those who endure their trials and afflictions as the apostle here directs are pronounced blessed and are assured of a glorious reward. The character by which our author desires to be known is James, a servant of God, and of the Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was a prime minister in Christ’s kingdom, yet he styles himself only a servant. It is important to grasp that those who are highest in office or attainments in the church of Christ are but servants. They should not therefore act as masters, but as ministers. Further, though James is called by the evangelist the brother of our Lord, yet it was his glory to serve Christ in the spirit, rather than to boast of his being akin according to the flesh. Hence let us learn to prize this title above all others in the world, the servants of God and of Christ.

James said when trials and tribulations knock on our door, we are to count it all joy. We should relish the opportunity to persevere even in the midst of. Christianity teaches men to be joyful under troubles: such exercises are sent from God's love; and trials in the way of duty will brighten our graces now, and our crown at last. Let us take care, in times of trial, that patience, and not passion, is set to work in us: whatever is said or done, let patience have the saying and doing of it. When the work of patience is complete, it will furnish all that is necessary for our Christian race and warfare. We should not pray so much for the removal of affliction, as for wisdom to make a right use of it. And who does not want wisdom to guide him under trials, both in regulating his own spirit, and in managing his affairs?

Here is something in answer to every discouraging turn of the mind when we go to God under a sense of our own weakness and folly. If, after all, any should say, this may be the case with some, but I fear I shall not succeed, the promise is, to any that ask, it shall be given. A mind that has single and prevailing regard to its spiritual and eternal interest, and that keeps steady in its purposes for God, will grow wise by afflictions, will continue fervent in devotion, and rise above trials and oppositions.

When our faith and spirits rise and fall with second causes, there will be unsteadiness in our words and actions. This may not always expose men to contempt in the world, but such ways cannot please God. No condition of life is such as to hinder rejoicing in God. Those of low degree may rejoice, if they are exalted to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom of God; and the rich may rejoice in humbling providences, that lead to a humble and lowly disposition of mind. Worldly wealth is a withering thing. Then, let him that is rich rejoice in the grace of God, which makes and keeps him humble; and in the trials and exercises which teach him to seek happiness in and from God, not from perishing enjoyments.