

From the Pastor's Desk

November 30, 2020

Greetings Morning Star Baptist Church Family and Friends:

This week Advent begins. For most Baptist, this is a foreign concept, but it need not be.

The term Advent comes from the Latin word "adventus," which means "coming or arrival." The word "adventus" is a term used to describe the Coming of Christ. Thus, the season of Advent in the Christendom anticipates the "Coming of Christ" from three different perspectives:

- The physical birth of Christ in Bethlehem (the Christmas Season).
- The reception of Christ in the heart of the Believer (One's Conversion).
- The eschatological Second Coming of Christ (That which is spoken of in the Revelation of Jesus Christ when Jesus returns to rapture His church).

As we anxiously await the Christ Jesus and look back to His supernatural birth during the Christmas Season, we should pause for a moment and give thanks to God for His lovingkindness. We should ensure that we are ready to receive Him, for none of us know the day nor hour of His return, and we must be prepared (Mark 13:32). When that trumpets sound, there will not be time to get ready.

The year 2020 has presented many distractions, diversions, and difficulties. Some may have even taken their eyes off the Lord Jesus Christ. But this we cannot do. Psalm 27 tells us that we are to choose faith over fear and joy over despair, noting that the presence of God does not shield us from our struggles and suffering. However, we know that in due season we shall lift our heads.

The Psalmist continues in Psalm 27:6 and says: "Then my head will be exalted, above the enemies who surround me; at his sacred tent I will sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the LORD." We are thankful that in Christ Jesus, our heads are lifted toward a vision of our common unity as children of God. Be encouraged this Advent Season and know that You are HIS! Thank God! Share your faith, not just during this season, but all year round.

I miss you, and I pray to God the Father daily on your behalf, thanking Him for you. God bless you.

Yours in the Service of the Lord,

Pastor John H. Whitfield

STAY HOME! SAVE LIVES!
Remain Faithful and not Foolish

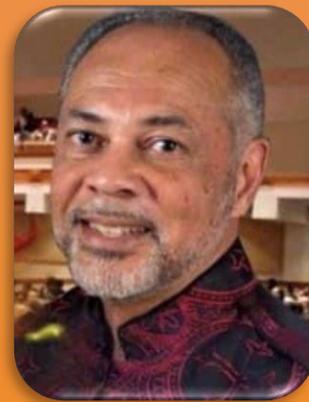
STAY home as much as you can.

KEEP a safe distance

WASH hands often

COVER your cough

SICK? Call ahead



Pastor John H. Whitfield

Bible Verses on Hope

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."

Psalms 10:17

LORD, you know the hopes of the helpless. Surely you will hear their cries and comfort them.

Psalms 33:18

Behold, the eye of the LORD is on those who fear him, on those who hope in his steadfast love.

Psalms 34:18

The LORD is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.

Psalms 71:5

For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O LORD, from my youth.

Psalms 94:19

When doubts filled my mind, your comfort gave me renewed hope and cheer.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the Lord is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk, and not faint.



MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH

2050 Thornton Avenue
Gulfport, MS 39501

Email: msbcgulfport.org

Website: morningstar@msbcgulfport.org

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!