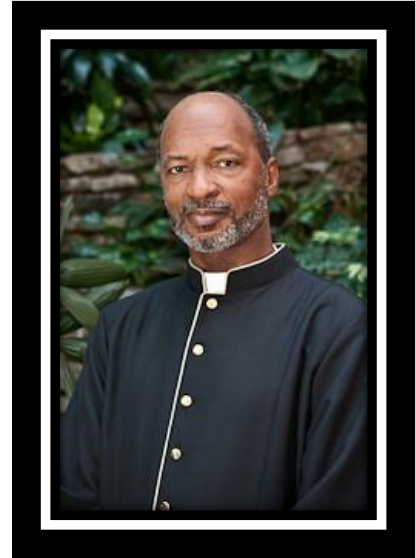


The Bishop's Corner

Hold on Until Jesus Comes

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Wherefore we labour, that whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (II Corinthians 5:9-10, 14-17,21 KJV).



We want God to accept the work we do in Him. If it had not been for the blood of Jesus, none of us would be saved. We must use the blood; and the way we use the blood is to repent. We must never stop repenting because we live in the mercy of God. We've done so many things that are worthy of death, but God's mercy did not let us die; therefore, we never have a reason to give up and go back into sin. We all have the same tools in God, the difference among us is who uses them the most. We want God to deliver us from those things in our lives that are not pleasing to Him, not just repress them because of our strong will.

We are our own biggest distraction in our lives, and the devil uses that against us. Our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and we need to be aware when someone or something comes into our temple to distract us. We must make sure that we avoid doing things in our bodies and in our minds that do not align with God's Word and will for our lives, and those things may not always be sin. When Jesus directed His anger toward the money changers, He was cleansing the temple of distractions, not sin (Matthew 21:12-14 KJV). The true sanctuary of God is in our spirit. Therefore, we must learn to recognize distractions, and pray and worship God so we can keep ourselves in His love.

Don't be like the people in the world, and don't adapt to their ways. Our light must be greater than that of sinners. We must keep ourselves separate from the world and come out from among it not only where sin is concerned but also where our attitudes or mannerisms are concerned. Walk upright and keep on believing. When we stop believing, our heart becomes evil, as the Word of God warns us not to have an evil heart of unbelief. Be encouraged that a life in Christ is an easy life because we have hope that sinners do not have. We must make up our mind that the bible was written by eye-witnesses and every word in it is true.

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction