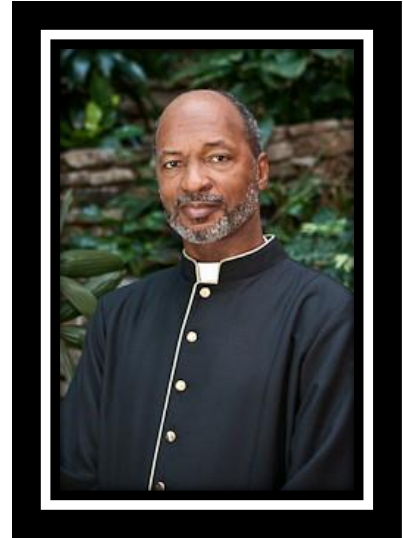


# The Bishop's Corner

## *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamp. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day or the hour wherein the Son of man cometh. (Matthew 25:1-8, 10, 13 KJV).”



We must keep our lamps trimmed and burning. Five of these virgins in Matthew 25th chapter were wise and five were foolish, which means that some people are going to be saved and some are not. We need to make our calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10) that we are ready to go to heaven. We have to be careful about who we are connected to in this world. We must be washed because we're not perfect and can't live perfectly but we can watch and be careful.

If the Holy Ghost dwells in us when Jesus comes back, we're going to be changed from mortal to immortality. We must obey God so that the Holy Ghost doesn't leave us. It is very necessary to continue to pray for washing and to keep the Holy Ghost. When we start to have a determinate will as children of God, we need to make a decision to serve God wholeheartedly.

We should be careful when we say that God is not enough. The children of Israel complained about manna in the wilderness because they said it wasn't enough (Exodus 16:12 KJV). We must come to a point in our lives when Jesus is enough, and we find ourselves desiring His appearing more than anything else. We should never be satisfied with being on the earth because we don't belong here; our citizenship is in heaven (Hebrews 11:16 KJV).

The question is, do we have the Holy Ghost? It is not whether we have been to church or know the word of God. This is a serious matter, and everything else in the world is insignificant when compared to being ready to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air on a cloud. A crown of righteousness is laid up for us who love Jesus' appearing (2 Timothy 4:8 KJV). If you're not ready, you can repent now and get ready!

God bless you,

Bishop Charles D. Smith  
Gulf Coast Jurisdiction