

## The Bishop's Corner

### *Consider your ways*

Praise the Lord Saints,

“Then the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying, ‘Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?’ Now therefore, thus says the Lord of hosts: “Consider your ways! ‘You have sown much, and bring in little; You eat, but do not have enough; You drink, but you are not filled with drink; You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; And he who earns wages, earns wages to put into a bag with holes.’ Thus says the Lord of hosts: ‘Consider your ways! Go up to the mountains and bring wood and build the temple, that I may take pleasure in it and be glorified,’ says the Lord” (Haggi 1:3-8, NKJV).

God was no longer first in Israel’s life so God sent the prophet Haggai to tell them to consider their way. We too must ensure that we keep Jesus first in our lives because the Apostle Paul tells us in Colossians 1:18 that Christ has gained preeminence, which means that He is first. “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.”

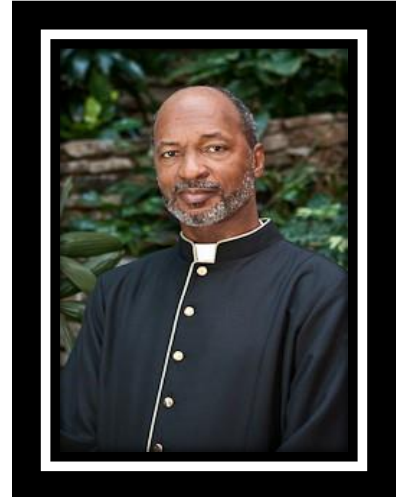
Jesus gained this preeminence because of His obedience to God and the finished work of the cross. “And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:8-11, NKJV). We must have the same mind as Jesus and obey God because everything that we get from God comes through Jesus. We must consider our ways in everything we do and ensure that we seek to please God every day.

The world should see God through us because Jesus said that we are the light of the world. “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven” (Matthew 5:14-16, NKJV). We should never be in any environment where the darkness around us overwhelms us. Because unless we walk in the light all the time, we will never be able to draw anyone else to the Light (Jesus).

Jesus is our high priest and He is above all things in the heavens. “For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens” (Hebrews 7:26). Consider your ways because you have help to make it through this life. “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Hebrews 4:16, NKJV).

God bless you,

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*For more of Bishop Smith's teachings, go to the Gulf Coast Jurisdiction Website at <http://www.gulfcoastclgi.org> and click on "Encouragement" then "Teachings."*