



The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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When we stand before Christ in the judgment, there is no indication that He will even take note of

The Dream of Freedom

Neal Pollard

Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his "I Have A Dream" speech on a seasonable and rain-free day in August of 1963, but this speech, delivered to at least 250,000 people, is often remembered on a holiday in January named for him. This speech is one of the most important documents of our nation's history and was a watershed moment in improving race relationships between black and white Americans. Eloquently and poetically pointing out the injustices his race of people had endured and were enduring at the time, King looked forward to a new and improved day. He hoped all people, whatever their race, would "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." He hoped to leave Washington, D.C. and return back to his home with faith in the powers that ruled nationally and locally which would be translated into hope, brotherhood, and unity. His final call was to "let freedom ring".

Many people forget that Mr. King was a religious man, a preacher who often alluded to Bible characters and principles as well as directly quoting from it. Inasmuch as he accurately referenced it, Mr. King was calling all people to God for guidance regarding right and wrong. He said that character took priority over color. He saw unity as right and division as wrong. He called for freedom rather than slavery, real or virtual. While he was rightly championing these characteristics in the realm of racial equality, those principles doggedly stand regarding other matters. Character, unity, and freedom matter in religious matters.

our race, ethnicity, or nationality. He will look to see if His blood covers us. Peter rightly says, "I most certainly understand that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him" (Acts 10:34b-35). Corrupt behavior or disobedience will not be acceptable, no matter who we are.

Furthermore, anyone who fosters division is rejected by God. He hates "one who spreads strife among brothers" (Prov. 6:19). He condemns it through Paul in 1 Corinthians 1:10-13. In social or spiritual matters, I don't want to be responsible for inhibiting a brotherhood God desires. If I refuse to stand where He stands or if I stand where He doesn't want me to stand, He will not accept it.

Finally, there is freedom even more important than the noble cause King and his followers pursued. They wanted loosed from the manacles of a bondage imposed by others. All of us, outside of Christ, are subject to a bondage we cause for ourselves. Paul refers to this as being "slaves of sin" and "slaves to impurity and to lawlessness" (Rom. 6:17,19). But, thank God, we can be "freed from sin" (Rom. 6:18). Then, we become slaves to righteousness.

Christians must care about racial equality, never treating someone different because of the color of their skin. The way to right content of character, unity, and freedom is found in the book so often quoted by Mr. King. No matter where or when we live, it will guide us toward an eternal home in heaven.

September 14, 2025

What Am I Owed?

Thom Vaught

Sunday Morning
Opening Prayer Steve Fletcher
Closing Prayer Joey Jones

Scripture Reading Jerry Reaves

Sunday Evening
Opening Prayer Adam Morgan
Closing Prayer Joseph Tucker

Remember in prayer:

Linda Delome, recuperating from surgery to repair her broken wrist.

Ron Erwin will have surgery Tuesday to repair his ear drum.

Luke Keller (husband of Jon Dyke's cousin) has issues with heart and cancer.

Jill Spears (wife of Randy, who mows the church's lawn), Peggy Coppock, Suzanne Reaves' mother. Wendy Booker, Joan Henry (Sally's sister), Larry Jones, Norene O'Kelly, Heidi Street, Don Duncan, Randall Glaze, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Jerry Reaves will preach tonight.

Brothers Keepers Group One will meet tonight;
Group Two will meet next Sunday night.

Please make plans to join us on Sunday,
September 28th, at Oak View Nursing Home for our singing at 3:30 pm.

Record for the week of September 7, 2025
10 am 11 am 5 pm M.-W. Avg. Contribution
90 85 62 76 \$3980.23

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people.
He will beautify the humble with salvation.
- Psalm 149:4 (NKJV)

I have endured a bit of discomfort over the past weeks with Achilles tendonitis. Although it is healing and really minor in the big scheme of things it caused me to think back on the examples of suffering, we have in scripture. Although many come to mind perhaps the most extreme example of this is Job.

We are told that Job is blameless, upright, and God fearing (Job 1:1). Although Job was not sinless, nor is any man, we know from this statement that he was in a relationship with God such that any sin was covered. We see that Job is blessed in his life both materially and spiritually. However, Satan objects that Job is only God fearing because of the life of comfort and ease he has enjoyed. God allows Satan to bring about suffering in Job's life, the likes of which most of us cannot fully comprehend.

In the depths of Job's suffering several men come to visit in order to comfort him (Job 2:11). Poor comforters most turned out to be for Job. In turn most of them bring doubt upon Job's character, insisting that he must have done something horribly wrong in order to merit this suffering. Finally, when Job can bear no more, he defends himself asserting his own righteousness (Job 32:1) and silencing those critics.

However, one comforter remained, Elihu, who was outraged both at the false comfort afforded by the other friends as well as Job's own self-righteousness (Job 32:2). In doing so Job implies that he is owed better circumstances than he finds himself in at the time. Elihu confronted both Job and the other friends with hard truths. The friends were in no position to judge Job based on his current suffering. Conversely Job was in no position to think that just because he had lived a good life that God owed him material and physical blessing.

Finally, the Lord answers them all (Job 38-41) by calling out Job's pride and showing the many ways in which man can never fully comprehend our Creator. We will never understand all the suffering in our lives or that we witness in this world. However, God did not owe Job anything and neither does He owe us today. In spite of the present discomfort we all face, we can learn the lesson Job did and approach God with humility as well as with the honor that He deserves.

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan