

3 Things to Do

1. Pick up James Cone's book, "Black Theology and Black Power."
2. Pray for other racial, ethnic, and religious groups in the US who are oppressed.
3. Pray that God will rise up prophets and priests in the White Church who will help them turn from their hypocrisy.

The American Christian Paradox

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

1. How should the Black Church respond to today's racial climate in our society? How should we combat racism?
2. How do we explain the American Christian Paradox to our children?
3. How we teach our children to love and serve the Lord while others who say they love and serve Him, mistreat our children and us?

Church Calendar

CHURCH SCHOOL

SUNDAY 9:30 AM

MORNING WORSHIP

SUNDAY 11:00 AM

HOUR OR POWER BIBLE STUDY/ PRAYER MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM

[EVENTS FOR MAY 2018](#)

Sunday, 13th — *Mother's Day, Offering \$20*

Monday, 14th — *Ministry Team Meeting, 7:30PM*

Sunday, 20th — *Pastor Appreciation Day*

Tuesday, 22nd-Sunday, 27th — *Philadelphia & Baltimore Annual Conference, Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center, 5701 Marinelli Road, Rockville, MD 20852*

Monday, 28th — *Memorial Day*

Church Announcements

Peace Benediction in E^b By Darrell J. Gaskin

Please don't worry about anything
But pray and ask God for everything
you need
Always giving thanks
And He'll give you peace for your
heart and mind.

And the peace of God,
which surpasses all understanding
will keep your heart and mind
In Christ Jesus, the Lord.

BETH SHALOM AME ZION CHURCH
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The American Christian Paradox

REV. DR. DARRELL J. GASKIN
PASTOR



Embrace the New Beginning of Compassionate Ministry!

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8100 Malcolm Road
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---- A Compassionate Ministry ----
Rev. Dr. Darrell J. Gaskin, Pastor
Rev. Dr. Rita J. Colbert, Presiding Elder
Rt. Rev. W. Darin Moore, Presiding Bishop

What is a paradox?

A paradox is a statement that is seemingly contradictory or opposed to common sense and yet is perhaps true

Examples of paradoxes

1. Jumbo shrimp
2. All animals are equal but some are more equal than others – G. Orwell
3. If someone says, “they always lie.” Are they telling the truth or are they lying.

Your Notes

WHAT DID PASTOR GASKIN PREACH ABOUT TODAY?

The American Christian Paradox is that both the White Church and the Black Church claim to worship Jesus Christ, but pursue very different policies in the public square. The White Church is motivated by personal morality but ignores social justice. Social justice motivates the Black Church and we won't legislate personal morality. How can both abide? This theological divide has existed since the White Church signed onto the transatlantic slave trade. It has persisted throughout slavery, Jim Crow, segregation, the civil rights revolution and into the post-civil right era. Today we are at a critical crossroads in time because God has exposed hypocrisy in the Church. The path forward leaves two choices: repentance or judgment. Let's pray our brothers and sisters choose repentance and transformation rather than hardening their hearts leading to judgment.

Is the Lord the God of the Oppressed and the Oppressor?

Judgment begins in the House of the Lord.

1. Two Christian communities but two very differ opinions.
2. Why do Black Christians and White Christians disagree about this President?
3. White Christians feel the President will protect them and their institutions. Black Christians feel that the President put them and their institutions at risk.
4. Are we worshipping the same Jesus? Are we following the same Christ? Are we reading the same Bible?
5. The scripture says we are one in Christ. Galatians 3:26-29, NIV
6. What does it mean to be one? Oneness implies that we are one in the Spirit.
7. America has always challenged the Black and White Church. The Freedom Church is an offspring of this challenge.
8. Can the Church of the Oppressed be the Church of the Oppressor? Is our Lord, the God of both oppressed and oppressor?
9. This is a time of testing and judgment. (Proverb 3:32-35) The White Church is losing creditability with the general public. They claimed to be the personal morality church. The President's reality challenges this. The Black Church is the social justice church but do we want social justice for everyone
10. We need to pray for our brothers and sisters and our own souls, too.

Words to Remember

So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ, have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Galatians 3:26-29, NIV)

For the Lord detests the perverse but takes the upright into his confidence. The Lord's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous. He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humble and oppressed. The wise inherit honor, but fools get only shame. (Proverbs 3:32-35, NIV)