



*The Church of Service, Discovering New Dimensions of Faith in God's Authoritative Word*

01 October 2024  
No. 10 Volume 25  
Published Monthly

**Mission Statement:** We, of the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, exist for the purposes of bringing God's lost children to salvation, and exalting the Lord through our worship and our works to edify and equip the saints in His Word.

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Pastors Pen

## Sacred is the Name of God

Pastors Pen



*After this manner therefore pray you: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (Matthew 6:9 KJV)*

It's October and with it comes images and thoughts of Halloween, which originates from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. This pagan celebration marked the end of Summer and the beginning of Winter. The Celts believed that the spirits of the deceased roamed the earth on the night of Samhain, and they celebrated with bonfires, dancing, divination, and wearing costumes. Over time, Halloween evolved from Samhain to include Christian feasts of the dead, such as All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. By the 9th century, October 31 was known as All Hallows' Eve, which eventually became Halloween.

We find the word "hallow" being a part of the name of this event, the same word Jesus used in connection with God's name in the Lord's prayer. In it Jesus teaches us to reverence God's name, saying, "Our Father in heaven hallowed be thy name". This phrase often recited without full comprehension, holds profound significance. The sacredness of God's name is a fundamental concept in Christianity, emphasizing the reverence, awe, and worship due to our Creator, Elohim. The word "hallowed" means "to sanctify" or "to make holy." In this context Jesus instructs us to treat God's name with utmost reverence, recognizing its inherent holiness. In biblical antiquity, names carried deep meaning representing a person's character, nature, or attributes. God's name is most certainly no exception. His name embodies His essence, power, and authority. The Hebrew name "Yahweh" (Lord) signifies God's eternal, self-existent nature (Exodus 3: 14-15 KJV).

To hallow God's name is to: recognize his sovereignty as the supreme authority; honor His character by respecting His attributes of love, justice, and mercy. Worship Him alone by exclusively devoting our worship and allegiance to God. Consequently, we should use God's name respectfully, prioritize worship, and live a life of obedience that reflects God's character. "Hallowed be thy name" is more than a phrase; it is a call to reverence, worship, and obedience. It surpasses any connotations made in the name "Halloween," for it can not equate to recognizing the sacredness of God's name. So as we pray these words, may our hearts be filled with awe, our minds be focused on His greatness, and the power of His holy name transforms our lives.

**In This Issue of  
St. John's of Lawton Herald**

**Published Monthly**

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**Notice to Our Readers**

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*And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

*Jeremiah 3:15 NKJV*



Pastor Davison A. Virgil was called to pastor SJMBC on 24 October 2021. Pastor Virgil's vision and commitment of "Increasing Our Reach in a Church Where God's Word is Authoritative" is leading SJMBC into a greater knowledge of Biblical truths.

Join SJMBC as we celebrate three years of faithful service from Pastor Davison A. Virgil. The celebration will occur on October 20, 2024, at 3:30 pm in the main sanctuary. The guest speaker is Rev. Dr. Emory Virgil (Pastor Virgil's brother) of Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Thomasville, GA.

*In infinite wisdom the Lord surely knew that we would have a pastor as faithful and true as you. You have the love of God's Word and a heart for His flock, you are always giving of yourself and we of SJMBC appreciate you Davison A. Virgil for standing on this rock of His believers.*



**"Much Love Pastor Virgil from Your Family at SJMBC"**

Davison Alonzo Virgil was born in Thomasville, Georgia. He is the seventh child of nine siblings born to the late Rev. Washington Virgil and Lula Belle (Saunders) Virgil. From his marriage to his forever friend, Georgeanne (Brown) Virgil, he was blessed with two sons and three daughters: DeVaughn Lydell (deceased), Sheroyd Lydell (Aidan), Khalilah Dionna (Ray), Ashley Janelle, and Whitley Danielle (Cody). He is also the proud grandfather of five grandsons.

At the age of 11 that Pastor Virgil accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior and was baptized and nurtured at the Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Thomasville, Georgia under the pastor of the late Rev. A. J. Atkinson. When his father, the late Rev. Washington Virgil, was called to pastor the Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, South Miami, FL. He continued to sing in the Youth Choir and Young Adult Choir.

While attending Albany State (College) University where he earned his Bachelor of Science Degree, he attended the Union Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Dr. J. A. Severson. Upon graduating from college, he accepted his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the U. S. Army Chemical Corps; he was assigned to Ft. McClellan, AL. In July 1991, he was assigned to Ft. Sill, III Corps Artillery and continued his service as an associate minister at SJMBC. He served as a Chemical officer for 21 years and 10 months. He then transitioned to the field of education and served as a high school teacher with Lawton Public Schools for nearly 22 years, and also served as an adjunct instructor with Cameron University for 14 years. He retired as an educator in September 2020.

*Continued on page 4*





**Eboneisha Armstrong**  
**Olivia Bell**  
**Doris Brown**  
**Edna Elliott**  
**Felecia Johnson**  
**Nava Locklin**  
**Ethel Pennington**  
**Evon McMillian**  
**Tamala Sanchez**  
**Tai Williams**  
**Houston Bass**



*“Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12 KJV)*

### *In Loving Memory*



**Bro. James L. Wallace**

**Do you know this month's past SJMBC mystery ministry?**



**September's mystery family was the Williams Family**



Celebrating anniversaries during the month of August are Bro James & Sis Teresa Johnson and Deacon Carl & Sis. Connie Smith.



### *The Johnson's*

Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate, and loving after the wedding bells have stopped. Blessed are the husband and wife who are as polite and courteous to one another as they are to their friends. Blessed are they who have a sense of humor. Their marriage shall be much brighter. Blessed are the parents who abstain from alcohol. Their children will surely follow their example. -Bro. Ian Copeland

### *The Smith's*

### **The Purpose of Our Trials**

When thinking and praying about what to write (it's been a while) the Lord placed this on my heart and mind as a testimony not only for me, but for others as well. Some believers like to portray their life as ideal and carefree. But in reality being a Christian isn't always easy. In fact, sometimes we'll experience trials that truly test our faith and ability to trust God, especially when adversity or sadness comes. It's important for us to remember that God has a purpose for our difficulties and will see us through them (Romans 5:3-5 KJV) which I've been reading a lot. Difficulties in our lives may be the Lord's way of testing us. He could be trying our faith, endurance, or devotion to Him. God also demonstrates His power to sustain us. When He brings us through challenging times, He glorifies Himself. In turn, this encourages others because we have witnessed God's power in our lives. Ultimately hardships strengthen our testimony. In the midst of our struggles we might feel overwhelmed and discouraged, but once the storm has passed we can often look back and see the Lord's hand carrying us through. -Sis. Sherrell Wallace

### **Trust in God's Plan**

It's hard to understand, why God takes those we love. Does He need them more than we do, in Heaven up above? No one on earth can pretend to know what's in God's plan. All we can do is have faith and trust we'll see our loved ones again.



Please keep the following families in prayer: Sis. Bailey-Harris, Sis. D. Acosta, Sis. E. Elliott, Sis. M. Thomas, Sis. D. Hill, Sis.S. Wallace, Bro. J. Brown, Sis. M. Bowen, Sis. L. Smith, Deacon R. Cole, Sis. B. King, Bro.V. & Sis. S.Campbell, Sis. L. Pierce, Sis. R. Rouse, Bro. J. Williams, Bro. & Sis. Branch, Sis. B. Davenport, Bro. H. Williams, Sis. D. Persinger, and Sis. V. Sawyer.

## Secular Strategies in Church's

Some Christian people who have gotten into the corporate structure want the Church to take on the standard of these perishing orders in conducting the life of the Church of Jesus Christ. They use some criteria that a business uses for hiring people, and they want to use these methods for employing people in our Churches.

The Church growth movement suggest using secular marketing strategies to attract a homogeneous crowd and ministering exclusively to that group. The most serious criticism of such Churches is that they do not feel the need to repent or to ask for God's grace or mercy.

Many churches have embraced the idea of testing the waters before trying anything new. They conduct studies before undertaking new projects, instead of working under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Another disturbing trend is measuring the Church on a per capita basis of giving. This suggest that one should take an average Sunday morning worship attendance and divide it by the offering to arrive at the per capita amount. Success is then defined by the per capita figure, instead of by the work of the Holy Spirit. It is a dreadful thing for a Church to live only by statistics, eventually it will starve spiritually.

Good leaders must balance the roles. What if your Church was measured by the three B's: baptism, buildings, and budgets. What if your Pastor had a performance evaluation that solely based his salary on such guidelines as how many new people he brought into the Church and how much the budget increased? A Church must be aware of and sensitive towards these physical matters. To measure a Church by the size of membership or its budget or its building is to cast an awful reflection on Jesus Christ. -SJMBC Herald

## Inspirational Quotes

If we are to be instruments of God's miraculous power, we must unlock the storehouse. All Christians know that God's best gift, like valuable jewels are kept under lock and key, and those who want them must, with fervent faith, ask for them. -Dr. J.L. Davenport



Every Christian, because of what God has done for him, is called to show his love in what he can do for others. - Dr. J.L. Davenport



"A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small package."- B. R. DeJong



## Celebrating Pastor Davison A. Virgil

*Continued from page 2*



It was in 2008, that Pastor Virgil was called to serve as a Hospice Chaplain and was ordained under the pastorate of Rev. Dr. Tyrone E. Turner, Sr. Subsequently, Pastor Virgil would be asked to serve as the Interim Pastor in January 2012 to June 2013 and then again in July 2020. It was while serving as interim that the Spirit of God moved in the hearts of the members to extend to him the call to become the seventh pastor of SJMBC.

Pastor Virgil has served in the Lawton/Ft. Sill Community in a number of capacities to include: member of the Lawton Public School District Educational and Improvement Committee, Grant writer and mentor for the Young Male Mentoring Program, Scout Leader and administrator for Boy Scout Troop 106, Volunteer for Hospice of Lawton, Member of the Interdenominational Mass Choir, Sponsor for the MacArthur High School organizations.-SJMBC Herald



The SJMBC Family would like to announce the union of a marriage that has lasted over half a century. Congratulation to Brother Clint and Sister Barbara Branch, whom celebrated their 63<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary during the month of September 2024.





# Trivia Corner

(Answers on page 7)



1. Who referred to believers as “salt of the earth?” \_\_\_\_\_
2. “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill \_\_\_\_\_.”
3. Why did Jesus encourage believers, “Let your light so shine before men?” \_\_\_\_\_
4. Paul charged Roman Christians not to eat meat, drink wine, or anything to cause a brother to \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Peter said it is God’s will that the well doing of Christians will “silence the ignorance of \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Who said, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ?” \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who counseled believing wives to be submissive to unbelieving husbands who might be won to Christ by the wives’ Christian conduct? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Jesus said, “If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, \_\_\_\_\_.”
9. What young minister was admonished to be an example to believers in word, conduct, and faith? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Paul to Timothy: “And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able \_\_\_\_\_.”

## Upcoming Events

- \* Pastor Willie Tiller’s 3rd Pastors Anniversary Worship Service: is October 13, 2024, 11:00 am at Union Baptist Church of Lawton, OK. Guest speaker is Pastor Davison Virgil of SJMBC of Lawton, OK.
- \* Pastor Davison Virgil’s 3rd Pastors Anniversary Worship Service: is October 20, 2024, 3:30 pm at SJMBC of Lawton, OK. Guest speaker is Pastor Dr. Emory Virgil, Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Thomasville, GA.
- \* SJMBC Fall Revival is October 21 - 23, 2024; 6:30 pm nightly, guest speaker is Pastor Dr. Emory Virgil, Providence Missionary Baptist Church, Thomasville, GA.



## Hearing The Word or Not

*Do you really want God to speak to you? Some of us, though we say we do only think we want to hear the Lord. For when God does speak, we don’t really want to hear what He has to say.*



Zedekiah, the last pitiful king of Judah, is a classic illustration of a man who only thinks he wants to hear a word from God. The predominant characteristic of Zedekiah’s life was to refuse to pay any attention to the word of God. Personally and by his influence on others he led an entire nation to disregard God’s word. Yet on at least four different occasions he asked for a word from God. Zedekiah wanted to hear from God. but only on his own terms and at his own time.

How about you? Do you want to hear from God all of the time or only sometime? Do you only want to receive the good words from God. or are you open to a realistic and constructive word as well? Everyone will listen to God as long as God says something pleasant. Zedekiah and his generation had long decided what God would say and they had no desire to hear anything else. To them the only thing God could possibly say was “Jerusalem is safe, and so are you.” They thought that they and the city were both indestructible.

Men have always been and still are that way. For the most part we choose the church, the preacher, and the message we want to hear. It is a rare man or woman who opens him or herself up totally to the word of God regardless. One test of determining whether or not you are really hearing God is whether or not you ever hear him say something you would rather not hear.

When God’s word comes It will have two distinct marks. It will be a word of reality, telling It like It is. Then It will be a word of redemption telling you how It can be. That’s what happened in Zedekiah’s life. God told him how things really were. Then he told him how things could possibly be under God’s grace. You cannot hear God’s possibilities unless first you hear God’s reality. There must be a Cross before there can be a resurrection, don’t you agree? -SJMBC Herald.

## Finding Comfort

Too many Christians live in doubt, disappointment, and discouragement. They don’t experience the assurance of a life nestled in God’s loving care; they don’t find comfort in His promise of a victorious life. Comfort can be found by trusting God with our lives, winning over defeat, showering love on fellow Christians, bringing comfort to troubled friends, obtaining the promises of the Lord, and living in the fullness of Christ. We can live confidently in God’s love and receive the abundance of joy and blessing that awaits each of His children.



We are looking forward to praying with you.

Please List Your Request

Please Pray For: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_



\*\*\*PRAY WITHOUT CEASING\*\*\*

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**Prayer Request Cards:** Prayer is essential in the life of a Christian. There is great power in prayer and we endeavor as a church family to stay in prayer for one another. In both Matthew 6:5-15 (KJV), and Luke 11:1-13 (KJV), Jesus teaches His disciples to pray. Even today He is teaching us to pray, and James 5: 16 (KJV) teaches us to "...pray one for another." As a church family, it is important that we use prayer as a means to bless one another. Our prayer card helps to ensure that we know each other's prayer needs and afford us the opportunity to pray for each other for specific needs. Please complete the pledge card and mail it in or email your request to the church secretary at secretary.sjmbclawton@gmail.com.

### Crossword Puzzle - Biblical Characters

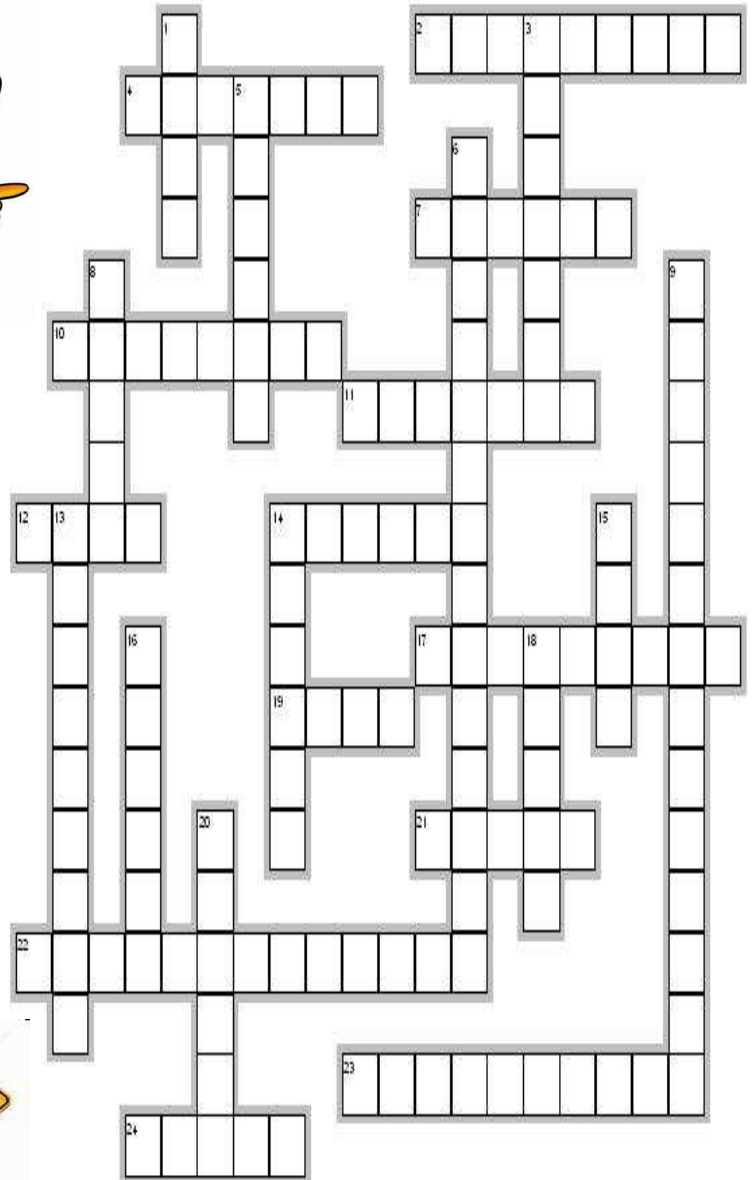
**Down:**

- 1. The mother of Jesus
- 3. Father of disciples James and John
- 5. Peter's brother
- 6. The forerunner of Jesus (3 wds)
- 8. The tempter
- 9. Man who issued decree for census
- 13. "How can a man be born again?"
- 14. Who called Nathanael to follow Jesus
- 15. Writer of the second gospel
- 16. Mary's very busy sister
- 18. He had John the Baptist beheaded
- 20. Daughter was healed by Jesus



**Across:**

- 2. Mother of John the Baptist
- 4. Man whom Jesus raised from the dead
- 7. The earthly father of Jesus
- 10. Short tax collector
- 11. Tax collector who wrote became a disciple
- 12. Temple prophethess
- 14. He found no guilt in Jesus, yet sentenced him to death
- 17. Father of John the Baptist
- 19. Doctor and New Testament writer
- 21. The disciple who was also called Peter
- 22. Betrayer of Jesus (2 wds)
- 23. Blind beggar healed by Jesus
- 24. The Way, the Truth, and the Life



## The Ekklesia

*Ekklesia (or ecclesia) is the Greek word translated in the New Testament as “church.” It comes from ek, meaning “out from and to” and kaleo, meaning “to call,” and has to do with a group of people called out from one place and to another. It is an assembly or a congregation. The ekklesia in the New Testament is a group of people who have been called out of the world and to God; it is the church.*

The church is a group of people, not a building. The church universal is made up of all believers in Jesus. Local churches are smaller gatherings of the worldwide church. And many local churches happen to meet in a building that we also call a “church.” But it is the people, not the building that is ultimately the church.

The church is “called out.” First Peter 2:9–11 KJV says, “But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

Jesus said, “we are to be as salt and light in the world” (Matthew 5:13–16 KJV). Though we live in the world and are part of it, the church is meant to be distinct. We are to be separate from the ways of the world and point to the truth of God. We are to love people as God does, share His invitation to salvation with them, and pray that they, too, will hear His call and join His church.

Hebrews 10:23–25 KJV is encouragement for each of us who belongs to the ekklesia of God: “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”



### The Church and Morality



Every social group, racial, ethnic, religious, or whatever might be the case, must develop strong, tested foundations of moral values that are capable of sustaining its present and future existence. The fabric that constitutes the cohesiveness of any group must have strength enough to endure the pressures of an out of control culture. Morally, America is an out of control society. The strong moral fibers that once held it together is being weakened and tom away. Any society is only as strong as its three basic units: the family, the church, and the community that exists around it.

The family, as the primary institution of experience, is sorely affected by: Divorce, Child abuse, Spousal abuse, abandonment, and Materialism, etc. The church is or should be the center of moral leadership, values clarification, and life changing experiences. However, in too many cases, the church is handicapped by: A lack of direction, fragmentation, ignorance of issues, and a lack of standards of excellence for daily achievement. The community, which includes every social, political, legal, religious act and reaction, is the proving ground for demonstrating success or the lack of it in these relationships. We are all aware of the prevailing situations today: High crime, Low morals, Education, lack of trust, loss of vision, and Hopelessness.

For survival, the family and the environment must be strengthened. The Church, the catalyst for moral teaching and change, must regain its influence in the lives of the family member. The community, the arena for testing and proving experience, will make a positive recovery in time, given the proper resources with which to work. The road to recovery is relevant churches, a stronger families, jobs, a dynamic community, and: an honest approach to needs assessment, a search for direction, a heart searching attempt at values clarification, and prayer for power and endurance. The church must clear its vision of the revelation of God in the Man Christ Jesus in order to liberate our people from this wilderness of moral confusion. Many anxiously wait for a church, a family, and a community reunification for survival.-Anonymous

**Increasing Our Reach (Matthew 22:37-39 KJV)**

### Trivia Corner

Answers from page 5



1. Jesus. Matthew 5:1,13 (KJV)
2. “Cannot be his.” Matthew 5:14 (KJV)
3. So others may see their good works and glorify the Father. Matthew 5:16 (KJV)
4. Stumble/fall. Romans 14:21 (KJV)
5. “Foolish men.” 1 Peter 2:15 (KJV)
6. Paul. 1 Corinthians 11:1 (NIV)
7. Peter. 1 Peter 3:1. KJV
8. “And follow me.” Matthew 16:24. (KJV)
9. Timothy. I Timothy 4:12. (KJV)
10. “To teach others also.” 2 Timothy 2:2 (KJV)



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**Knowledge is intended to be our friend, but it may also be made our enemy. -Dr. J. L. Davenport**



### **How Can I Be Saved?**

*"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"*

(Matt. 16:26 KJV))

I. The Meaning: In the original language, the word "saved," in its simplest form, means to be made whole; it also carries the connotation of being rescued. So then, when we at St. John's speak of being saved, we speak of being rescued by God from the deprivation, the clutches, and the consequences of sin; we speak of being restored, made whole or complete again by coming to a right relationship with God.

II. The Price: Do not be dismayed. The price of being saved is neither costly nor complicated. But you must admit that you are a sinner. Romans 3:23 (KJV) state: "**All have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God.**" But what is sin? Sin is an act of disobedience to the will of God for your life. It could be a lie or lust, sin is sin.

You must realize that sin has a punishment. Romans 6:23 (KJV) state: "**The wages of sin is death.**" The word "wages" literally means the result or the product of sin is death. Death is separation from God, both in this world and in the world to come.

And you must be assured of God's love. Romans 5:8 (KJV) state: "**While we were yet sinners, God demonstrated His love toward us, in that Christ died for us.**" The amazing message here is that while we were behaving as God's enemy, sinning against Him, His love was so merciful and gracious that He sent His only begotten Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world, through Him, might be saved.

Finally, to be saved, you must confess and believe. Romans 10:9 (KJV) state: "**That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe in your heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved.**" If you believe that God raised Jesus of Nazareth up from the grave and can confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, you shall, not maybe, be saved.

III. The Prayer: If you desire to be saved, would you pray the following prayer: "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. And I know that Jesus died for my sins. I believe You raised Jesus from the dead, and I want Him to be my Lord and Savior. Jesus, come into my heart and save me. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."

The Bible says that when you pray that prayer, it immediately resulted in your salvation. Should you ever doubt whether or not you are saved, read I John 5:12 (KJV) that states emphatically: "**He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.**" If you have Jesus living within you, you have eternal life.

**If you do not have a church home, then find a Bible believing church and get involved in the Bible Study program of that church. Talk to the pastor or one of the leaders about baptism and determine in your heart and mind to walk with Jesus all the days of your life. Should you need help in finding a church, call St. John's at (AC-580) 357-3542; we will be glad to assist you. May God bless and keep you.**