

“THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD”

Psalm 119:15-16

*“I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.
I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.”*

By the grace of God, we have almost completed 2021 and almost entered 2022. If God blesses us to begin the New Year, I encourage each of us to daily invest quality time with God in His word. The writer of Psalm 119 made it his practice to meditate, delight, and remember God’s word as he considered God’s ways. Likewise, I suggest that we raise the bar of the word in our lives by meditating, delighting, and remembering God’s word as we consider His ways. **This should be done every day of our lives, so I recommend that we begin 2022 by daily reading, meditating, applying, and sharing *Our Daily Bread*.** If God blesses us to complete 2022, we can successfully read and grow through the entire Bible. *The following Scriptures are recommended on the following days:*

Saturday, January 1, 2022: Genesis 1-2; Matthew 1
Sunday, January 2, 2022: Genesis 3-5; Matthew 2
Monday, January 3, 2022: Genesis 6-8; Matthew 3
Tuesday, January 4, 2022: Genesis 9-11; Matthew 4
Wednesday, January 5, 2022: Genesis 12-14; Matthew 5:1-26
Thursday, January 6, 2022: Genesis 15-17; Matthew 5:27-48
Friday, January 7, 2022: Genesis 18-19; Matthew 6
Saturday, January 8, 2022: Genesis 20-22; Matthew 7

“THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING”

2 Corinthians 9:6

*“But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly;
and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”*

In addition to acknowledging “The Importance Of The Word,” we should acknowledge “The Importance Of Giving.” Believers give because we love, obey, and trust God. Moreover, when we give generously (bountifully), we gain and receive generously; therefore, in order to have a happy and prosperous New Year, we need to give the way God commands believers to give. I encourage each of us to begin 2022 by giving tithes (10% of our increase) and offerings faithfully. If we faithfully give according to God’s word, God will faithfully bless us beyond what we presently can contain. **We currently give in person during Sunday Morning**

Worship Celebrations, by mailing or dropping off our Tithes and Offerings at our Administration Building or South Campus, or by giving online through our website (sjmbc.org).

BUILDING FUND PLEDGES

We still desire to construct a multimillion-dollar **Family Life Center**, adjacent to our current sanctuary at the North Campus, which will consist of a gymnasium, game room (for the youth), and weight room. Many of us made a pledge that we fulfilled, but some have not. I personally thank those of us who have already fulfilled our pledge and others who have made “Building Fund” contributions. I encourage everyone (if you have not already done so) to participate financially as soon as possible in this building project by choosing one of the following tiers:

- 1) \$10,000.00 or more
- 2) \$5,000.00 to \$9,999.00
- 3) \$1,000.00 to \$4,999.00
- 4) \$500.00 to \$999.00
- 5) Below \$500.00

CHRISTMAS ONLINE PRESENTATIONS

God blessed us with a stellar Christmas Gala, a creative Christmas Play (“A Delicate Matter”), and many delightful Christmas Speeches (by our children). Consequently, **I commend and pray God’s blessings upon each ministry, leader, and participant** (those involved) for allowing the Lord to use you to enable thousands to experience a Merry CHRISTmas.

BE SAFE!

We are still amid a pandemic that most of us became aware of about two years ago. The Omicron variant is allegedly more infectious than any previous variant of Covid 19 even though it seems to be not as harmful. As your Pastor, **I am closely observing everything that is a potential hazard to our congregation, and I plan to disclose more about this in person very soon.** In the meantime, I encourage us to be more mindful than ever regarding our safety protocol.

We currently have two Worship Celebrations (each is approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes) every Sunday: 9 a.m. at the North Campus and 11 a.m. at the South Campus. **Everyone (especially people who are physically disabled) is encouraged**

to arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand to be seated safely and comfortably. Temperatures are checked, hand sanitizing is urged, social distancing is applied regarding where people shall sit and walk, wearing a mask is now mandatory in our county, utilization of restrooms is restricted to 2-4 people at a time (depending on the size of the restroom), and congregating before and after Services is prohibited. **If you have any Covid symptoms** (such as cold or flu), please view and participate in our online worship via YouTube or Facebook rather than in-person worship.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

Sundays:

- **Worship Celebrations** at 9:00 a.m. (North Campus) and 11:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- **Online Church School** at 2:00 p.m.
- **Online J.A.M. (Sessions For Children)** at 4:00 p.m. (2nd and 4th Sundays).
- **Online Lord's Supper** at 7:00 p.m. (1st Sundays). To participate, each believer will need bread or a cracker and grape juice (or something similar).

Mondays:

- **Preparation For Grocery Giveaway** at 10:00 a.m. (South Campus)
- **Online Women Missionary Ministry (General Mission)** at 6:00 p.m. (4th Mondays)

Tuesdays:

- **Grocery Giveaway** at 12:00 p.m. (North Campus and South Campus)
- **Online Church Leadership Council** at 6:30 p.m. (Tuesdays before 3rd Sundays)

Wednesdays:

- **Online Prayer** at 12:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- **Online Church School** at 7:00 p.m.

BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

Let's begin the New Year right with God! If we want to gain favor with the Lord, we should read, meditate, apply, and share God's word daily (Our Daily Bread). Also, we should demonstrate our love, obedience, and trust in God by faithfully giving our Tithes (10% of our increase) and Offerings.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor