

POSTURES TO AVOID

Psalm 1:1 (KJV)

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.”

The Book of Psalms begins by addressing our postures among unbelievers. Believers are blessed (happy) when our postures are correct, and the correct postures for believers are when we walk not in the counsel of the ungodly, when we stand not in the way of sinners, and when we sit not in the seat of the scornful. Walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners, and sitting in the seat of the scornful are postures we should avoid because they will hinder us from being blessed (happy). Basically, as believers, **we must be mindful of how we conduct ourselves among people that are unsaved, and we must be on guard against being a stumbling block in their lives.** Thus, my encouragement to each of us is to let the light of Jesus Christ shine through us consistently, especially when we walk, stand, or sit among unbelievers.

WORSHIP CELEBRATIONS

Our two in-person Worship Celebrations are on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (the North Campus) and 11:00 a.m. (the South Campus). Everyone (especially people who are elderly and 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 mandatory, 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) or if you have not completed at least 5 days of quarantine after testing positive, **please view and participate in our online worship via YouTube rather than in-person worship** along with many others who choose to worship with us through live streaming.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

February is Black History Month. Black History is a significant part of American History which means that it is also a significant part of World History. Black people have contributed (and still do contribute) so much to our country's success; therefore, **all of us have a responsibility to teach our children (and to teach others)**

the facts about Black History which will help Black people appreciate being Black and other races of people appreciate Black people.

A MAJOR CONSEQUENCE OF ROBBING GOD

We learn in the Bible that tithing is an important part of faith for those who follow God and that tithing (10 % of our gross income/increase) should be money we set aside before paying anything else. We have observed that Jesus endorsed tithing and that tithing began before the Mosaic law. We have learned that tithing enables believers to experience a harvest (abundant blessings) and that tithing empowers God's church to minister effectively. Last week, we learned that tithing is a step of faith.

Today, we need to be aware of the consequence of robbing God. Some say that they cannot afford to tithe, but, as for me, I cannot afford *not* to tithe. **Malachi 3:8-9** reads: *“Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.”*

First, how can one profess to be a believer yet rob God? Most recognize that to rob anyone is immoral, so how can we describe a person who professes to be a believer that is robbing God? Believers rob God when we fail to present Him our tithes (10% of our gross income/increase) and offerings.

Secondly, believers who rob God of tithes and offerings experience God's wrath because they are “cursed with a curse” (meaning greatly cursed). They cannot secure what they gain when “cursed with a curse” because Haggai 1:6b says the bags which contain their gain are full of holes. This explains why some people cannot get ahead even if their income is greater than ever.

The consequence of robbing God is being “cursed with a curse” (greatly cursed). On the other hand, the consequence of obeying God by presenting Him our tithes and offerings is abundant blessings (Mal. 3:10). In summation, the choice is ours. Do we want to live “cursed with a curse” or abundantly blessed? As for me, I choose to live abundantly blessed by faithfully giving God my tithes and offerings. As a result, He has *“opened for me the windows of heaven and poured out for me blessings that I have not room enough to receive them.”*

At St. John, 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). Let's demonstrate our faith with our Tithes and Offerings.

OUR DAILY BREAD

Thursday, February 17: Leviticus 24-25; Mark 1:23-45
Friday, February 18: Leviticus 26-27; Mark 2
Saturday, February 19: Numbers 1-2; Mark 3:1-21
Sunday, February 20: Numbers 3-4; Mark 3:22-35
Monday, February 21: Numbers 5-6; Mark 4:1-20
Tuesday, February 22: Numbers 7; Mark 4:21-41
Wednesday, February 23: Numbers 8-10; Mark 5:1-20
Thursday, February 24: Numbers 11-13; Mark 5:21-43
Friday, February 25: Numbers 14-15; Mark 6:1-32
Saturday, February 26: Numbers 16-17; Mark 6:33-56

MEMORANDUM

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

Weekly Activities: I strongly encourage everyone to participate in the **St. John activities that benefit you**. In regards to each of the following activities, visit our website at sjmbc.org if you need more information. What's forthcoming?

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. (Children Fellowships)** 2nd and 4th Sundays at 4:00 p.m.
- **Online Lord's Supper** 1st Sundays at 7:00 p.m. 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)** 4th Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Tuesdays:

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

Wednesdays:

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

BIBLICAL RECAPITULATION

In Psalm 1:1, we learn about three postures we should avoid: Walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners, and sitting in the seat of the scornful. We are blessed (happy) when we are not guilty of hindering unbelievers. Also, we learn in Malachi 3:8-9 that professing believers who fail to give God tithes and offerings are robbing Him which causes them to be “cursed with a curse” (greatly cursed). This is a major consequence of robbing God.

May God bless and sustain each of us.

Your Servant In Christ,

Dr. Kevin B. Hall, Pastor