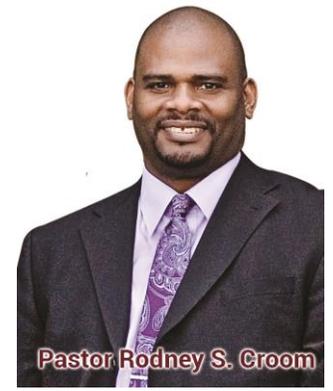


FIRST BAPTIST-PS TIMES

A monthly newsletter of First Baptist Palm Springs Vol. 2 Issue 10 January 2023



Pastor Rodney S. Groom



From the Pastor's Desk

Hello my beloveds,

I want to say Happy New Year to you all! I pray that this year and the upcoming years be prosperous and filled with brand new mercies.

As I was sitting at my desk, I thought about how many of us have allowed past hurts and past church hurts to paralyze and immobilize us spiritually. We have allowed it to destroy church unity. This is not to minimize church hurt and past hurts in no way, shape, or form because church hurt real and if we are not careful, they can cripple us from focusing on the bigger picture and this is the kingdom of God. The devil would love to keep us immobilized by rehearsing to us and to keep us focusing on what was done to us instead of taking it all to the cross! When we take it to the cross, we will always see our part in it. None of us are perfect and we have all hurt someone in our own selfishness and foolishness. If we sincerely think about the cross, none of us can hold grudges or stay bitter too long. When we think about the cross, we have line it up and come under the authority of the WORD. Thinking of the cross none of us can hold sin over each other's head, for when we look at the cross, when we look at how Jesus died for our sins, and not His own it should make us more tenderhearted toward each other. When we look at all of the sins that were forgiven from by God because of Jesus, it should spur us and challenge us to move past our church hurts and forgive one another. It's about kingdom business!

The devil wants to keep us there so he can paralyze us from doing the kingdom work God has called us to do. We are called to witness and make disciples (Matt. 28:19-20), but if we are focused on what has been done to us, we will never be about the Kingdom's business!

I am reminded of a scripture that encourages me as a pastor when I have been hurt, abused, and talked about. I pray that it encourages you. *"³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. ³² Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."* (Ephesians 4:31-32). What we have to forgive is not comparison to what God had to forgive. He has forgiven us for crucifying His Son. The sins committed against us is nothing in comparison to the sins committed against God. We crucified the Lord of glory! Our sins are what He was nailed to the cross for. May we forever think of the cross when it come to church hurt. People are human and with humanity comes flaw and faults. This is no excuse it's just facts.

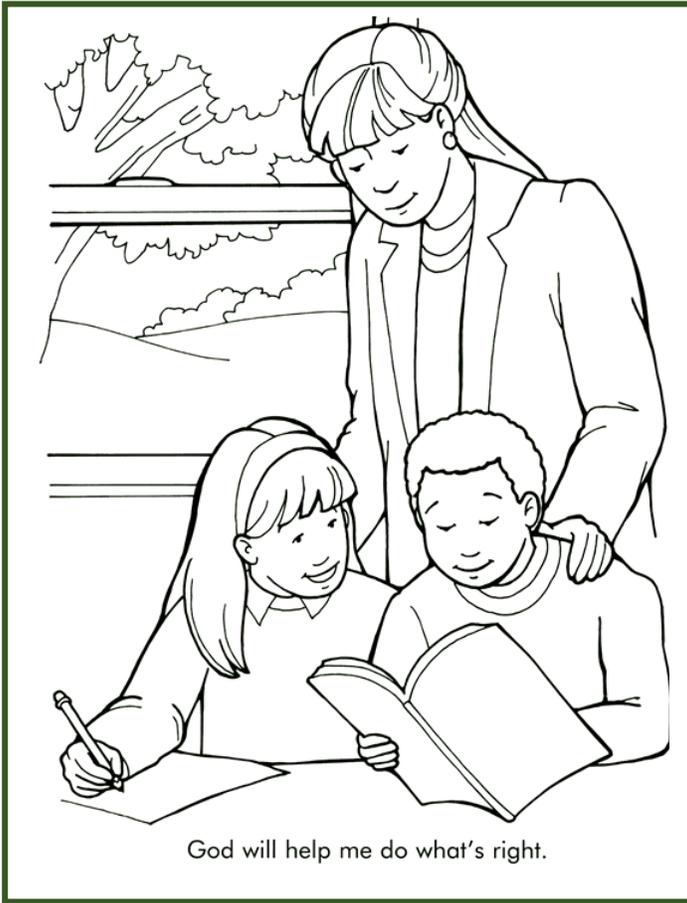
May we never allow church hurt to immobilize us or paralyze us, but may we take it to the cross where there is a constant flow of blood streaming down. May we take it to the cross where we can find unlimited help, forgiveness, grace, and mercy. In 2023, may we no longer lose sleep and be stressed over church hurt. Instead, pray, talk it out with your brother or sister, line up under the WORD, and press forward. In 2023, may we move beyond immobility to mobility and be about the kingdom's business!

Pastor "C"



Sisters Who Care donate to Shelter in the Storm

Sisters Who Care donated blankets, socks and toys to Shelter in the Storm during the Christmas holiday. Sis. Karen Williams, SWC president, (right) presented the items to Sis. Angelina Coe, Executive Director of Shelter in the Storm.



21ST ANNUAL PASTOR & WIFE Appreciation CELEBRATION

PASTOR RODNEY S. CROOM & FIRST LADY ANGELA CROOM

"Leading with the Love of the LORD"
Ephesians 3:14-21 (Emphasis on verses 17 & 19)

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 19TH 2023

Prayer requests...



- **Pastor Croom – Attentive to God, Health & Devine Wisdom**
- **Croom Family- Protection & Divine Wisdom**
- **Church Leadership -Spiritual Unity & Divine Wisdom**
- **Unity in the Family of God**
- **Sunday School – God would bring those who thirst for His Word**
- **Kiyah Alexander & Family**
- **James Croom – Mental Health & Salvation**
- **Bro. Rodney Croom Jr. – Moving forward on the path God is leading him to**
- **Sis. Ann Curtis**
- **Rev. Gouldlock – Healing in the body**
- **Bro. Orlando Harding – Spiritual Healing & Obedience to God**
- **Sis. Michelle Harding- Obedience to God, Application of the Word, Health & Healing (Spiritual & Physical)**
- **Sis. Sydney Harding – Spiritual Healing & Direction**
- **Sis. Taunya Hartwell – Obedience to the Lord**
- **Sis. Jalisia Hated – Deepening of her relationship with the Lord**
- **Kym Humphrey – Acceptance of the healing process & Family**
- **Sis. Fenita Kirkwood – Patience & the baby in the hospital**
- **Sis. Joyce Lockett – Health**
- **Sis. Tarella McAllister Minor -Grief & Guidance from the Lord**
- **Sis. Nibia Miller – FBC Corporate Prayer**
- **Sis. Diane Powell – Pain Relief**
- **Sis. Gina Robinson – Trust in the Lord**
- **Rev. Rogers – Health**
- **The Bereaved Family of Ronald Roy**
- **Sis. Rita Session – Health & Healing**
- **Tisby Family**
- **Sis. Thelma Ware – Health, Healing & the Ware Family**
- **Sis. Carol Wash – Health & Healing**

Sis. Keisha Thompson
Sis. Karen Williams
Sis. Betty Turner

Our deepest condolences to you and your family in your hour of bereavement

Save the Date

March 12th – Ordination of Min. Theon Hollis Rogers 3 p.m.

March 19th – Trial Sermon Min. Rodney S. Croom, Jr. 3 p.m.

What the Bible says...

By Rev. Reginald Powell

I love December and January. In December we get to celebrate Christmas and after Christmas, we get to celebrate the New Year. Did you know that God changed the calendar just before He freed the Hebrews from Egypt? He made that month of deliverance the first month of the year.

“And then God ordained the first festival (the Passover) for the new nation in that first month!

Let’s learn more with some awesome verses from God’s Word.

“We must bear in mind that mere resolutions to take more time for prayer and to conquer reluctance to pray will not prove lastingly effective unless there is a whole hearted and absolute surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ.” Below are things to consider and verses that will help us to turn to God for our New Year.

Look back on God’s faithfulness in the past year

How has God shown Himself faithful to you in the past year? How has He been your rock of strength, to steady you in these unprecedented times? Your New Year celebration should include testimonies of God’s faithfulness through the ups and downs of the previous year.

1 Chronicles 16:11-12 “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always. 12 Remember the wonders he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he pronounced.”

Psalms 27:1 “The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”

Psalms 103:2 “Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all His kind deeds.”

Deuteronomy 6:12 “make certain that you do not forget the LORD who rescued you from Egypt, where you were slaves.”

Reflect on your relationship with Christ in the past year

Use this time of new beginnings to reflect on your walk with Christ. Have you been moving forward spiritually? Or have you been stagnating...or even backsliding a little? How can you move forward in a deeper walk and greater spiritual victories?

God has promised direct and consistent blessings when we meditate on and follow His Word, spend quality time in prayer, and faithfully assemble with other believers in the church. How are you doing in these areas?

What are you expecting God to do for you and through you for others? Are you limiting your expectations?

What about your family’s walk? How are you encouraging your spouse and children to grow deeper in their faith and incorporate their faith into their everyday life?

What are some time wasters that are distracting you from God?

What are you doing...specifically...to fulfill the Great Commission to go into all the world and make disciples? (Matthew 28:19) Are you measuring up to what God has ordained for all believers?

Psalms 26:2 “Test me, LORD, and try me, examine my heart and my mind.”

About the New Year

looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. 25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”

Lamentations 3:40 “Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.”

1 John 1:8 “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.”

Revelation 2:4 “Nevertheless I have this against you, that you have left your first love.”

John 17:3 “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Jeremiah 18:15 “Yet my people have forgotten me; they burn incense to worthless idols, which made them stumble in their ways, in the ancient paths. They made them walk in byways, on roads not built up.”

Giving thanks for the New Year

God blesses us with things that are pleasant, agreeable, and good. He gives us what is best, and He showers us with His favor. Our paths drip with abundance – God is our God of more than enough! As we enter the new year, let’s thanks and praise to God, knowing that He will provide for our needs and the desires of our heart with super-abundance.

Psalms 71:23 “My lips shall greatly rejoice when I sing to you; and my soul, which you have redeemed.”

Psalms 104:33 “I will sing unto the LORD as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.”

Isaiah 38:20 “The LORD will save me; we will play songs on stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the house of the LORD.”

Psalms 65:11 “You have crowned the year with Your bounty, And Your paths drip with fatness.”

Psalms 103:4 “Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies.”

Colossians 3:17 “And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Conclusion

Let’s approach the New Year with reflection of where we are with God and with others, and where we want to be. Make things right with God and with the people in your life. Prayerfully consider your goals for the coming year.

And then, ring in the New Year with joyful celebration! Rejoice in the blessings of the past year and the abundance God will pour out in the year to come. Exult in God’s faithfulness, celebrate who you are in Him, be joyful in His continued presence and in His mercies that are new every morning. Commit your New Year to Him and walk in victory and blessing.

**Be of Service!
Join the Usher Broad!**

Contact Sis. Adams or Bro. Williams

Psalms 84:10



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 8** Kym Humphrey
- 13** Esperanza Coe
- 25** Marie McKinney



**A HOUR AT THE
FEET OF JESUS
CORPORATE PRAYER TIME
WEDNESDAY**

**6:30 p.m.
ZOOM MEETING ROOM**

**SHOW DOWN
AT THE FEET OF
Christ**



CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED!! See Rev. Coe



**John & Lela Adams January 4th
Rev. Clark & Angelina Coe January 8th**

JOIN
★ us at ★
Sunday
school



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

A Church where LOVE is displayed
and the Word is proclaimed

588 Rosa Parks Road
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 325-2650

- Sunday School-Sunday 8:15 a.m.
- Sunday: Worship 10 a.m.
- Tuesday: Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday: Noon Bible Study
- Wednesday: Corporate Prayer 6:30 p.m.
- Friday: The Word Proclaimed 7 p.m.

Rev. Rodney S. Croom, Sr., Senior Pastor

