

### The Bottom Line

By J.L. Caldwell, Pastor  
New Jerusalem  
Baptist Cathedral



There is a tendency for practicing Christians to live in a blinding haze relative to where they are going. Many are caught up in the business day to day living without stopping to assess their lives. Only when special events take place in their lives will they realize that they have not intentionally missed a turn in life that they really shouldn't have missed. As King David was able to reflect upon his life when God led him to "lie down beside still waters," he saw exactly where he was in life. David was not satisfied with himself when he realized that he was off course with his life. Like many Christians today, the brevity of existence had overcome King David when he realized that he was not able to cope with the things that he was facing in his life. It is being able to cope with our everyday existence will bring an element of grief into our lives. Life is meant to be lived and not left to chance.

Life is like taking a mathematics test. You have to solve math problem one by one. You may get this right and that one wrong. Though each math problem is a challenge within itself, this doesn't matter. When all is said and done, what really counts is the bottom line — how many problems you got right.

No matter how much money you make, it is the bottom line that counts — how much money you're able to save when all the expenses are paid. Life is just like this, it is the bottom line that counts. What is the bottom line in life? Saint Paul's first letter to Timothy gives us a

clue. "For we brought nothing into the world and we can take nothing out of it." (6:7) This is the bottom line in life. When all is said and done, we all will have to lay down our sword and shield and go home to the grave. Now that we have been forced to focus upon the "bottom line" of our lives, what effect will this now have upon us?

There would be those in church who are ignoring the prophecy of Jesus' return to a church without "spot and or wrinkle." (Ephesians 5:27) Yet some still feel they still have the time and right to not love one another, talk about one another, start rumors about the brethren, cheat one another, cheat on one another, steal from one another, become partners in crime, some who are trying to make their heaven on this earth and never leave it. We have made our own moral and spiritual mistakes in life, we have messed up and covered it up, we have long been imperfect, and yet we see ourselves perfect. So perfect in fact, that we can point our fingers at others and judge their spiritual imperfections, even when we are told by Christ not to judge one another (Luke 6:37). We are ignoring and forgetting our life's "bottom line."

If we knew that we were going to

die sometime in the very near future, this fact would, indeed, change our attitude about loving and forgiving one another. We would have no trouble at all "cutting slack for others." We would sweeten up and pay up in the church, keep our mouths shut when we're supposed to; we would speak no ill nor evil against our brothers and sisters. Jealousy would soon end. If able, we would start attending church in a more serious vain and more regularly. We would immediately sort out what is really important to us and will rediscover that our families are more important than what the world has to offer. We would really want Jesus to be real in our lives. Oh what a difference a day makes when we see the "bottom line" in our lives.

With the "bottom line" in view, we would tend to grow sweeter as the days go by. Our smiles would soon become real, when we tell others, "let me know if I can do something for you," you'd mean it. All of a sudden the need for Bible study will become more apparent in trying to get ready for the "bottom line." Live-ins will soon become marriage-ins. We would start getting more callouses on our knees, our heads would be bowed more in prayer more so than when we are eating. All of these changes would

take place once we truly understood our "bottom line."

It is a major work of satan to try to blind the children of God to their bottom line in life and to keep their tune line as somewhat of a mystical "smoke screen," thus giving the appearance of a nonexistent reality.

The crowd of Christians is growing, daily which labors under the false myths and assumptions that Christ is not coming back anytime soon (Matthew 13:26-32). Christians must learn why God has to wipe the tears from the eyes of those Christians who barely made it in. These tears are not tears of joy. At this point, pain and sorrow are still in existence (Revelation 7:17). The ongoing myth that some Christians carry is that all this will not make any difference because our past sins are forgiven us and God would have wiped our life's slate clean as snow and that Jesus on Calvary covers it all. Believing that all believers will pass the judgement seat with flying colors. Not so. We must consider the bottom line, because God will at the time of the Judgement. Contrary to popular belief, those who make the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:17) will not be exempt from the "bottom line" judgement of Almighty God.

Let us hear the words of Saint Paul. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that each one may be recompensed for his deeds done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad (2 Corinthians 5:10)." The phrase, "whether good or bad," lets us know that the belief that our past will not come back to haunt us. Job reminds us that, "It is appointed once for man to die after that is the Judgement." Job, more than 4000 years ago, clearly understood the bottom line in his life.

For Classified  
Information  
Call 682-2913!

### Union Baptist Church

904 N. Roxboro Street  
Durham, N.C. 27701  
(919) 688-1304; 1305  
FAX: (919) 688-1389

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Ray Hammond

Sunday-Spiritual Lift-Off ..... 7:47 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30 a.m.  
Mid-Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Tuesday-Alcoholics Anonymous ..... 8 p.m.  
Wednesday-Sun. School Workers Meeting ..... 6 p.m.  
(First & Last Wednesday)  
Prayer Meeting ..... 7 p.m.  
Bible Study (Adult & Youth) ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Thursday-Youth Advisory Council ..... 6:30 p.m.  
(First Thursday)  
Female RIAP Session ..... 7 p.m.  
(Third Thursday)  
Friday Narcotics Anonymous ..... 7:30 p.m.  
Van Transportation available for all  
Sunday Services  
\*Call 686-1304 for service

### MOUNT GILEAD BAPTIST CHURCH

"The Little Church on the Corner for the  
Cure and Care of Souls"

404 Dowd Street Durham, N.C.  
Reverend Leroy E. Davis, Pastor

Associate Ministers:  
Rev. James Turner — Rev. Pebbles Lindsay

A dynamic program of youth & adult involvement, a program where youth are not the church of tomorrow, but the church of today

Scouting/Athletics/Prayer Service/Bible Study  
Choirs/Ushers/Church School/Youth  
Participation And an Exciting Program for  
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Services — 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
Church School — 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday  
Children Bible Study 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.  
Fellowship/Repast 6:15 - 6:30 p.m.  
Adult Bible Study 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
Prayer Service 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Transportation Is Provided To All Services  
Call 688-6052, 687-4727, 682-3146

### White Rock Baptist Church

Founded 1866

3400 Fayetteville Street  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
(919) 688-8136

Dr. Reginald Van Stephens'  
A Friendly Church

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998  
9:15 A.M. .... Sunday School Assembly  
10:45 ..... Worship  
Sermon ..... Rev. Dr. Revinald Van Stephens

Combined Choirs  
Under the direction of Frank Williams  
Dr. Paula Harrell, Organist

Refreshments and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:45 a.m. worship. Free transportation furnished to worship services. Call 688-8136. Sunday Nursery provided for children during the morning worship.

### Saint Titus' Episcopal Church

400 Moline Street  
Durham, N.C. 27707  
(919) 682-5504

The Rev. Monroe Freeman, Jr.  
Rector

Sun. 8:00 am Holy Eucharist  
10:00 am Church School  
11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Wed. 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Sat. 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal

4th Sunday Healing Service  
Both Services

1993 1998

### Beacon Light Missionary Baptist Church

Lorenzo A. Lynch, Pastor  
Worshipping at  
FIVE OAKS SEVENTH-DAY  
ADVENTIST CHURCH BLDG.  
4124 Farrington Road  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

9:30 A.M. .... Church School  
11:00 A.M. .... Worship  
Music Children & Adult Choirs  
Sermon: Pastor

Mail:  
P.O. Box 51547  
Durham, N.C. 27717-1547  
For transportation — Call 419-1825

### New Jerusalem Baptist Cathedral

John L. Caldwell, Pastor

"A Church Family That Loves  
And Grows in Christ"

At The Corner of Old Oxford  
Highway And Danube Lane  
(Duke Lane)  
Phone: 220-7606

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

9:30 A.M. — Sunday School  
"Adult Singles/Single Again Class  
(2nd, 3rd & 4th)

11:00 A.M. — Worship Service  
Children's Church School  
7:00 P.M. — Christian Life Training  
(Family Life Series)  
Prayer Service: 7:00 p.m.  
(each Wednesday)

### St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church

531 South Roxboro Street  
Durham, N.C. 27701

Rev. Avery C. Brown, Pastor

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

"The Church That Cares"  
You Are Invited

CHURCH CALENDAR

Morning Worship ..... 8 a.m.  
Sunday School ..... 9:30  
Sunday Morning Worship ..... 11 a.m.  
Mid-Week Fellowship, Wednesday, 8:00 P.M.  
BIBLE STUDY ..... Wednesday, 12 noon

Transportation Is Available. For  
Information Call: 688-2092.

### St. Joseph's AME Church

2521 Fayetteville St. Durham, N.C.

Rev. Philip R. Cousin, Jr. Minister

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

8:00 A.M.—Worship Service  
9:30 A.M.—Sunday School  
11:00 A.M.—Regular Worship

Each Wednesday  
Prayer Service—Noon  
Jr. Church—Wednesday—6:00 P.M.

### The Baha'i Faith

Helps you to bring your questions, your ideas, your experiences, and your voice to the latest in Race Unity Dialogue Series:

May 29: The Triangle Latino Community  
7:30 p.m.  
Inter-Community Baha'i Center  
5103 Revere Road (in Parkwood)  
Durham, NC 27713  
(ample parking across the street)

This is an open presentation and public discussion the goal of working towards racial reconciliation. Speakers in our series are both Baha'i and non-Baha'i from the greater Triangle area.

Having gone through the stages of infancy and adolescent adolescence, humanity is now approaching maturity, a stage that will witness the reconstruction and unification of the whole world—a global organization unified in all the essential aspects of life. In no other country is the promise of spiritual unity more immediately demonstrable than in the United States. Yet this promise remains largely unfulfilled. It is the mission of the Baha'i Faith to become the force that eradicates the racial and ethnic barriers that are eroding the unity of the world. For more information, call 544-2960.

### Progressive Holiness Church, Inc.

An Apostolic Church  
Bishop H.L. Brown, Pastor

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

9:30 a.m. — Sunday School  
11:30 a.m. — Morning Service  
6:30 p.m. — Mid-Week Service (Wednesday)  
8:00 p.m. — Mid-Week Service (Sunday)  
8:00 p.m. — Mid-Week Service (Tuesday)  
8:00 p.m. — Mid-Week Service (Thursday)  
7:30 p.m. — Youth Service (Friday)

If you would like to attend our services and need transportation, please call.

1118 S. Doway Street  
Durham — 688-3309

### Asbury Temple United Methodist Church

201 South Alston Avenue  
Durham, North Carolina 27707  
Office Phone (919) 688-4578

Rev. Dwayne Craig, Minister

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

9:30 A.M. .... Sunday School  
10:45 A.M. .... Morning Worship  
7:P.M. .... Wednesday Prayer Service

### Mount Calvary United Church of Christ

1715 Athens Avenue  
Durham, N.C. 27707  
Tel: 688-5066

"On The Move For God"  
J.Cecil Cheek, B.Th., M.Div., Pastor  
Mt. Calvary Church Family Cordially  
Invites You to Worship With Us

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1998

Wednesday Prayer Service... 7:00 P.M.

The Franklin Center and Scholarship Committee sponsor a breakfast at the church between 8-9 a.m. each 4th Sunday of the month.  
Bus service for Church Sunday School and Morning Worship Services.