



The New Bethel Baptist Church mass choir sings a selection during the pastoral anniversary this past Sunday.

Anniversary

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He says with her help he turned those failing grades into four A's and one B. "All that I am since we met is because of Mae Jones," said Rev. Jones on the importance of his wife being in his life.

Rev. Cornelius' sermon touched on why it is important for a church to celebrate a pastoral anniversary. He touched on the humility that a pastor must have in order to be successful.

"The great pastors are those who keep their eyes on Christ," said Cornelius of what makes a good pastor.



Photos by Timothy Ramsey

The Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Cornelius, pastor emeritus of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, delivered the sermon for the anniversary service.

Lesson

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that is) (verse 14). Our high priest is in touch with our reality and has been tempted at all points and tried just as we are, but did not sin (verse 15). We then are to go boldly to the throne of grace and get what He is so ready to give. Take the mercy and accept the help (verse 16) (see also John 16:26-27).

Paul (assumed author) goes on to make a comparison of Jesus and earthly high priests. He says that God chooses the priests for His use in the peoples interactions with Godly business such as gifts of grain for thanksgiving or dedication and blood offerings for expiation of sins (verse 5:1)(see Lev. 1-5). The priest must deal gently and with compassion for the people's failings since they are too familiar with those failings from their own experiences. And the priest must therefore offer sacrifices for his own sins as well (verses 2-3). Priesthood is not a voluntary profession; you can't appoint yourself ... God chooses or calls to service those who He deems worthy, such as Aaron. Paul uses quotes

from Psalms 2:7 and 110:4 to demonstrate that Christ's incarnation and His priesthood were both by divine appointment ... yet another fulfillment of Old Testament (O.T.) in the New Testament (N.T.). Psalm 2 recognizes Christ as both king and Messiah. Christ is the King-Priest and Melchizedec is the first and only king and priest (Gen 14:18-20), but Jesus is a priest forever (verses 5-6). Verse 7 is a reference to the Gethsemane prayer where "Jesus agonized and wept, but committed Himself to do the Father's will in accepting the cup of suffering which would bring His death" (Mat. 26:38-46) (The MacArthur Study Bible). John MacArthur says of this prayer that "Jesus asked to be saved from remaining in death, i.e., to be resurrected." Being the Son of God, He completely understood obedience and knew it was necessary so that He could fulfill all righteousness and thus be the perfect sacrifice to take the place of sinners like us. He knowingly humbled Himself to learn obedience (verse 8). After satisfactorily completing His role of High Priest, Jesus became the

cause and source of eternal salvation to all who believingly obey Him. The discussion of Jesus as our high priest is ended in verse 10 with a repeat of Psalm 110:4 the call of God to the priesthood "after the order of Melchizedec"... referencing Christ again as King and High Priest with a perpetual reign.

For Your Consideration: Why do we need a high priest and how does Christ qualify? Why is obedience necessary and how do we become obedient to Christ?

Life's Application: Knowing that Christ is our incarnate Lord and savior and lived without sin in His humanity is or should be challenging to us as saved believers to live as obedient as He did. He proved that we can overcome sin. Yet it is also comforting to know also that He is our great high priest and is merciful, forgiving and a source of help when we need Him. Life has many challenges, but we as believers don't have to face them alone ... Jesus knows what we are going through, and He can help us.

Play

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also be among the performers.

Jermaine Cherry, writer and producer for the play, says he was raised in the church and as a youth he would notice the older members of the church act a certain way versus the young people. He said the purpose of the play is to bring healing, redemption and acceptance so people can come into church and be healed by God.

"What separates us from other stage plays is we give the people a full performance," said Cherry. "At Dreamcast productions, we don't put on plays; we put on productions. We have a full state-of-the-art Tyler Perry-type set that is built on stage and is top of the line. The experience you get when you come to see a Dreamcast production play is, 'Wow that was a great show.'"

"I appreciate the love the church has shown us over the years," said Allan. "I think with his leadership things will continue to go smoothly."

Mae Jones added, "It was wonderful. He not only tells me beautiful things in public but he tells me he appreciates who I am and what I mean to him in private. He always gives me credit for where he is in life. He is a kind and loving man. He has a servant's heart and he is the type of minister that's there for the people."

Many of the church congregation also participated in the celebratory banquet that followed Sunday's service.

Cherry also plans on building a studio where young kids can come out and learn about the arts. It will include teaching children a wide range of skills, such as script writing, performing and building the different sets. He says he would like to run the program during the summertime and for students in year round school.

He closed by saying, "The mission of the company is to entertain people through the love of Christ and do good performing arts."

To purchase general admission tickets for \$30 and WSSU student tickets for \$15, call the auditorium at 336-750-3220 ext. 601 or buy online at www.wssu.edu/tickets or www.dreamcastproductions.org.



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

The crowd during Day Two of Gospel Fest at the Dixie Classic fair included a diverse group of young and older adults.

Gospel Fest

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gram progressed. The crowd seemed glued to every act, and many stayed from the opening act to the finale of the concert.

Ron Goodson of Winston-Salem said he likes the fact that so many people came out to celebrate and enjoy the music at Gospel Fest.

"I just love to worship the Lord with anybody. I am glad to see so many people here worshipping together, it's a great thing," Goodson continued.

Sandra Rickard of Winston-Salem added, "I enjoyed the variety in music, especially the Fantastic Faithfuls. It was a great show."

Event Emcee Debra Terry, who handled her duties solo on Day Two, gave a brief introduction of acts prior to their performances along with leading the trivia portion of the show and handing out

many gifts throughout the day to the winners.

Karlton Jones, a hip hop saxophone artist, took the stage first and presented his unique form of music. He says he used to make secular music while in college but after a near death experience, he heard the voice of God that changed his life.

"I enjoy the many lives that are here being touched for the glory of God," said Jones. "I went through a difficult time and I knew that God was real while I was going through it so it kind of helped me to hang on during that time. Since then, He has healed my body and blessed me with a beautiful wife, kids and a great job, and that's kind of what led me into doing it for Jesus."

The Central Triad Church was next on stage with their uptempo brand of music. James Brock, the church worship leader, says he enjoyed the worship and camaraderie of the event. He says he knows there are people from all different

denominations, but it's great that everyone could come together to support one another.

On why they wanted to come and perform at Gospel Fest, he said, "To be out among this family of Christians so they can hear the sound that's coming forth from heaven. If we can be contagious and touch someone's heart, somebody may possibly give their life to Christ here and if we are a part of that movement, then praise God for it."

The other acts included Bishop Stephen Williams, The Fantastic Faithfuls, Bishop Grosjean Stephens and Raymond and Kim Larkin.

The Larkins, who are a married couple that perform together, said they enjoy singing together and bringing the gospel to others.

"We want people to take with them the sense of love and sense in unity in what we do," said Kim Larkin.

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