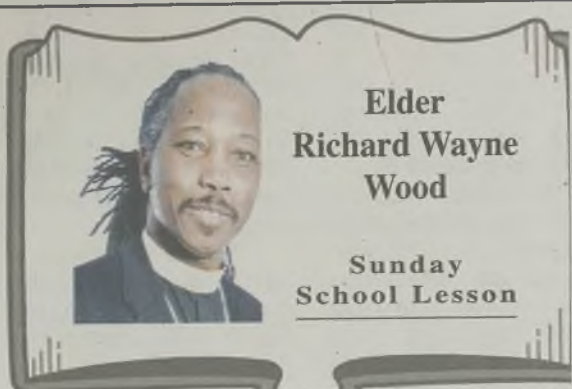


# RELIGION



Elder  
Richard Wayne  
Wood

Sunday  
School Lesson

## Submit to God in Love

Scriptures: James 4:1-10

By the end of this lesson, we will

- \*Recognize how worldly desires create conflicts
- \*Repent of the ways we cause conflict with others
- \*Commit to seek God in humble submission

**Background:** James is dated A.D. 44-49 and is the earliest written book of the New Testament. James himself is the oldest half-brother of Christ and brother of Jude. While James did not follow Jesus, he was converted by an appearance of the risen Jesus. James is known as James the Just because of his devotion to righteousness. James wrote that "The Word of truth" must be obeyed; the testing of faith, ethics of speech and in our lesson that wisdom and humility belong together.

**Lesson:** James addresses discord in a church of believers and false believers (wheat and tare). The root cause is the sinful, fallen human nature - desires for worldly pleasures (verse 1). The members are so driven by lust that they will fight even to the death to fulfill their desires (verse 2). James says "because ye ask amiss"... true joy, peace, happiness, meaning, hope, and fulfillment in life come only from God. Unbelievers or those not rooted in The Word are not willing to ask for these things on God's terms - they refuse to submit to God or acknowledge their dependence on Him (verse 3). They seek for their own pleasures, not to the honor and glory of God.

Whoever is a friend of the world is an enemy of God. Strong emotional attachment or deep and intimate longing for worldly things is evidence that one is a friend of the world and is not redeemed (verse 4). James points out here that the spirit (the human spirit) of an unbeliever is predisposed to evil (verse 5). Man's natural inclination to do evil can only be changed by the grace of God. God gives "more grace" and that grace is greater than the power of sin, the flesh, the world and Satan. That grace, however, is given to the humble, not the proud enemies of God.

How do we appear humble before God? James gives a series of commands on how to receive God's saving grace. Submission to God's Word - "line up under" His Word. True humility is signified by a person's total allegiance to God. Resist the devil - "take your stand against" when allegiance is transferred from Satan and given to God, Satan is defeated and flees. Draw near to God - pursue an intimate love relationship with God, the redeemed heart longs for communion with God. Cleanse your hand - simply means to recognize and confess your sins. Purify your heart - ask God to cleanse your inner thoughts, motives, and desires of the heart - your heart must not be divided between God and the world. Be afflicted - truly broken over sins. Mourn - is the inner response, to be broken and contrite over sin. Weeping - is the outward response to inner sorrow over sin (verses 7-9). The truly humble person is marked by all the stated commands which amount to simply "make oneself low." The conscious act of submission leads to humility and clears the path for God to "LIFT US UP" (verse 10). (The UMI Annual Commentary 2018-2019, the MacArthur Study Bible and the Oxford Bible Commentary).

**For Your Consideration:** Reflect on areas where you invest your time, talent and treasures. Do they reflect love for the world?

**Application:** Humility before God remains an imperative in the life of a believer. We must be attentive to not satisfy ourselves in ways that negatively affect others. We must remain wholly committed to God. We must show the love of God in the world in the way we treat both believers and unbelievers. We must continually draw close to God. Though we must interact with the world, we must also remain wholly faithful to the Lord. Pray with your heart aligned with the heart of God. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." Psalm 51:10.

## Church welcomes gospel artist for New Year's Eve concert



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

The room was packed for the Bri Babineaux concert at Praise Assembly Church Ministries.

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
THE CHRONICLE

Praise Assembly Church Ministries welcomed contemporary gospel artist, Bri Babineaux, for their New Year's Eve concert.

The concert was the idea of senior pastor, Johnny York, who wanted to bring Babineaux to Praise Assembly to "engage with the younger generation," according to organizer, Regina Cole. The concert was free for the public and the house was packed for the event.

"He (York) has been wanting to expand the horizon for Praise Assembly to do something different," said Cole. "His whole idea was just to find an urban contemporary gospel artist to come for New Year's Eve."

"We have had other traditional gospel artists to come, but we have never had someone this young and urban that is reaching a generation that a lot of churches are not able to

reach. We want to make sure we are doing things that connect with the future of the church." Cole stated the underlying goal was to also

music that the young people enjoy.

"We wanted to let them know that there are a group of young people that love the Lord and know how to praise and worship him," she continued. "It might sound a little different, but it is still their way of bringing glory to God."

"As each generation comes along, there is a different perspective. If the church does not change and shift with that perspective, it will get left behind."

Prior to Babineaux taking the stage, the church kicked off the night with a praise and worship involving the choir and dance teams. They transitioned into a fun game involving everyone in the audience to get them engaged.

Babineaux then took the stage and sang several songs that immediately touched all in attendance. Even with a sore throat, Babineaux powered through, giving the audience what they came for.

See Artist on B4



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

Bri Babineaux brought the crowd to their feet from her opening note.

younger generation enlighten the older generation because we do not want to lose them, because they are about the contemporary

## Local ministry opens new food pantry

BY TIMOTHY RAMSEY  
THE CHRONICLE

On January 27, the congregation of New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church will open their new food pantry. The church purchased new land to fulfill the need for food in their surrounding area.

The food pantry idea came from then-pastor Rev. Dr. Samuel J.

Cornelius back in 2003. "He said that God had revealed to him that the churches would have to assume this responsibility more and more, and from this vision and revelation was born the New Jerusalem Food Pantry," the church said in a statement.

"Dr. Cornelius told us years ago that the church was going to have to be the



Photo by Timothy Ramsey

The new pantry at New Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church will help hundreds of people in East Winston every month.

new welfare, because many of the politicians don't care about the hungry and the poor," said Joyce Paul, event planner. "He told us that the church was going to have to be the ones that feed the people."

In 2003, New Jerusalem purchased a

duplex apartment building on North Dunleith Ave. for the purpose of opening a food pantry. The duplex was converted and upgraded to meet city standards.

The church opened their pantry in 2004. They

See Food on B4

## CALENDAR

### Jan. 13 - Ministers' Conference installation service

The Ministers' Conference of Winston-Salem & Vicinity will have the installation service of its new officers on Jan. 13 at 5 p.m. at Union Baptist Church, 1200 Trade St. NW.

### Jan. 13 Prayer circle

Come and pray for our Winston Salem First Responders on Jan. 13 from 3-4 p.m. at 725 N. Cherry St. The event happens rain or shine (canceled is snow/ice).

### Jan. 13 Worship services

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Winston-Salem, 4055 Robinhood Road, will have two worship services on Sunday, Jan. 13. At the Awake service at 9 a.m. and the 11 a.m. traditional service, former ministerial intern Shakeisha Gray will speak on how the

Fellowship community helped her heal after a devastating traffic accident. At Explorations, 9:15 a.m., Kathy Orms will speak on leadership. At the 9:15 a.m. Forum, Suzy McCalley will discuss myths about yoga and how everyone can practice it. For more info, see UUFWS.org.

### Jan. 13-17 1st Anniversary Celebration

Stewards Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 198 Anderson Road, Rural Hall NC, will host its 1st Annual Celebration beginning Jan. 13. Sunday's service will begin on 3 p.m., the services on Jan. 14-17 will begin at 7 p.m. Any questions, call on (336) 624-2864.

### Jan. 20 - Family and Friends Day 2019

Family and Friends Day will be held at St. James AME Church, 1501 N. Patterson Ave., on Jan. 20. The Theme for the day is "A Time to Remember." Church school will begin at 8:45 a.m. Service will begin at 10 a.m. The preacher will be The Rev. Dr. Steven L.

Lyons, former pastor of St. James. Currently, Dr. Lyons is the pastor of Mt. Zion AME Church, Hillsborough, NC.

### Jan. 20 Twin City Choristers' concert

Grace Presbyterian Church, 3901 Carver School Road, will host the Twin City Choristers' 23rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Concert at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20. The event is free, although an offering will be received during the intermission. A reception will follow. For more information, call (336) 725-4105.

### Jan. 21 - MLK Interfaith Service

Saint James Presbyterian Church, 820 Ross Ave., Greensboro, NC, will host the annual Martin L. King, Jr. Day Interfaith Service on Jan. 21 beginning at noon. There will be a free lunch following the celebration. For more information, contact the church office at (336) 273-6658.