



FREEDOM_{CHURCH}

"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom."

2 Corinthians 3:17

Service Time: Sundays at 10 am

Pastor Mark's Remarks

Hi Friends,

I hope that you had a great Thanksgiving and that your heart is ready for the Advent/Christmas season ahead. This will be a fun month at Freedom with lots of opportunities to enjoy your church family amid the sights, songs and message of this important season.

As 2018 moves toward its close, I have been seeking God's direction for the coming year for Freedom Church. And one of the things that I have felt strongly impressed on me is that God is calling us as a church to spend 2019 getting to know Him better together through His Word. And to that end, I encourage you to join me for a spiritual journey in the coming year. I want us all to read through the New Testament and Psalms together in 2019. And to help facilitate that, I am doing two things.

First, I will be supplying a devotional Bible reading plan for each week of the year. The plan will be very simple. It will involve a reading each day which will take only about five minutes. On the five weekdays of every week, we will cover a chapter a day from the New Testament. And on weekends, we will turn to the Psalms, which is the worship and prayer guide of the Old Testament.

As a second piece of this plan, I am changing up the small group lesson plans for 2019. Rather than basing the lessons on the sermon each week, we will have a lesson every week that will be taken from your devotional Scripture reading for the week. My hope is that this two-pronged approach will help to stir a new hunger within us for the Word. And I truly believe that as we read and study the Word together in this way, that we will grow closer to one another and closer to God.

I will be putting the reading plan in front of you in many ways throughout the year. You will see it each month in the newsletter and each week on the website, on the church's Facebook page, and at the bottom of your sermon outlines. I hope that you will join me in this journey ahead. But I don't want you to wait another month to get into the Word. Why not let the Advent season be a time to turn your attention to Christ each day by spending a few minutes getting to know Jesus better through His Word? I encourage you to read through the gospel of either Luke or John between now and Christmas. And each day as you read a chapter, pause to ask Jesus to help you get to really know Him and His heart in a fresh way this month.

I look forward to sharing with you in the good things that God has in store for us this month and in the year ahead!

December 2018 Special Dates

- **Dec. 10: Leadership Christmas Dinner (6:00)**
- **Dec. 12-15: Final Small Group Meetings of 2018**
- **Dec. 16: Church-wide Christmas Breakfast (9:00)**
- **Dec. 16: Acoustic Christmas Worship Celebration**
- **Dec. 19: Youth Christmas Party (6:00)**
- **Dec. 23: Christmas Choir Carol Sunday**
- **Dec. 24: Christmas Eve Service (4:30)**
- **Celebrate Recovery every Thursday at 6:15 pm**
- **Freedom's youth meet on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm**



You Are Loved!
Mark

Check us out on the web! www.myfreedomchurch.net

Christmas Pancake Fellowship

Sunday, Dec. 16th at 9:00



We never seem to have enough time to visit and enjoy one another on Sunday mornings. So on December 16th, please plan to arrive for worship an hour early so that you can enjoy good food and fellowship with your church family. Dress in your most festive Christmas attire this Sunday, and come hungry and ready to worship! Worship that morning will also have a unique flair as we celebrate using the songs of the season. You will not want to miss it!

Christmas Eve Service

Monday, Dec. 24th at 4:30

Don't miss the most fun service of the year as we gather on Christmas Eve, from 4:30-5:30 pm, for a candlelight service that will include Communion, the Christmas story and your favorite Christmas songs. This is a great opportunity to bring unchurched family, friends and neighbors with you to Freedom to hear the Good News about Jesus!

Building Purchase Update

Your faithfulness in giving has allowed us to expand our reach as a church this year and be able to move into our current church building. And because of the strength of your giving, we anticipate closing on the purchase of our building and of Smart Bank next door in December. That would never have happened without a lot of sacrifices on your part and a lot of favor from the Lord! This purchase will provide Freedom with long-term stability and ministry expansion options. Thanks for praying and giving to make this a reality.

As you review your personal giving in 2018, please remember that end of year gifts to the church can be counted for 2018 taxes so long as they are postmarked by December 31, 2018. Thanks again for your faithfulness!

Student Ministry

God is on the move and we are excited to see what He has in store for Freedom 101 this holiday season! Our trip to the Ramp Youth Conference in Hamilton, Alabama, was nothing short of stepping into the work of God's hand. The Lord is moving heavily in that ministry and it is encouraging to see how many souls are being won in this coming generation!

We are looking forward to our youth Christmas party on Dec. 19th at our normal service time of 6 to 8 pm. It's sure to be a great time of fellowship for our students! Also in December, Pastor Charlie will be walking our youth through the Story of Creation as we begin a new series titled "Creation Science."



The team here at Freedom Youth want to thank you all for your continuous prayer and support!

Freedom Church • 101 Ecor Rouge Place • Fairhope, AL 36532

Missions

It is an exciting time to be a part of the missions ministry at Freedom Church!

I'd like to thank Dave and Nick Wilson for spearheading the action in our first domestic mission project. As you all know, Hurricane Michael ravaged the Panama City area. Dave and Nick swept into action by taking much-needed supplies into ground-zero, providing relief to those most affected. For several weeks, the Wilsons made weekly trips to deliver water and countless other supplies. Many of you contributed money and supplies in support of those efforts and I am eternally grateful for your support.

I'm currently planning our next trip to Tizimín, Yucatan, Mexico! The dates for the trip are May 29th - June 5th, 2019, and it's never too early to start raising funds! I will be having an informational meeting for all who are interested (or who may be curious) just after the first of the year. Please be on the lookout for the date of that meeting. We WANT you all to come be a part of the team, but there are also other ways for you to be involved. I will be talking about some of those ways in the informational meeting. Remember, Pastor Mark has challenged us all to go on an international mission trip within the next 5 years. He announced that challenge in the fall of 2017... time is marching by (4 more years)!

I'm also tentatively planning a trip to Rabinal and Pacux (pronounced "Pacoosh" - it's a Mayan word), Guatemala, which would probably happen in the fall of 2019. Be listening out for that opportunity to go serve and love on the local Mayan community.

Blessings,
Butch

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

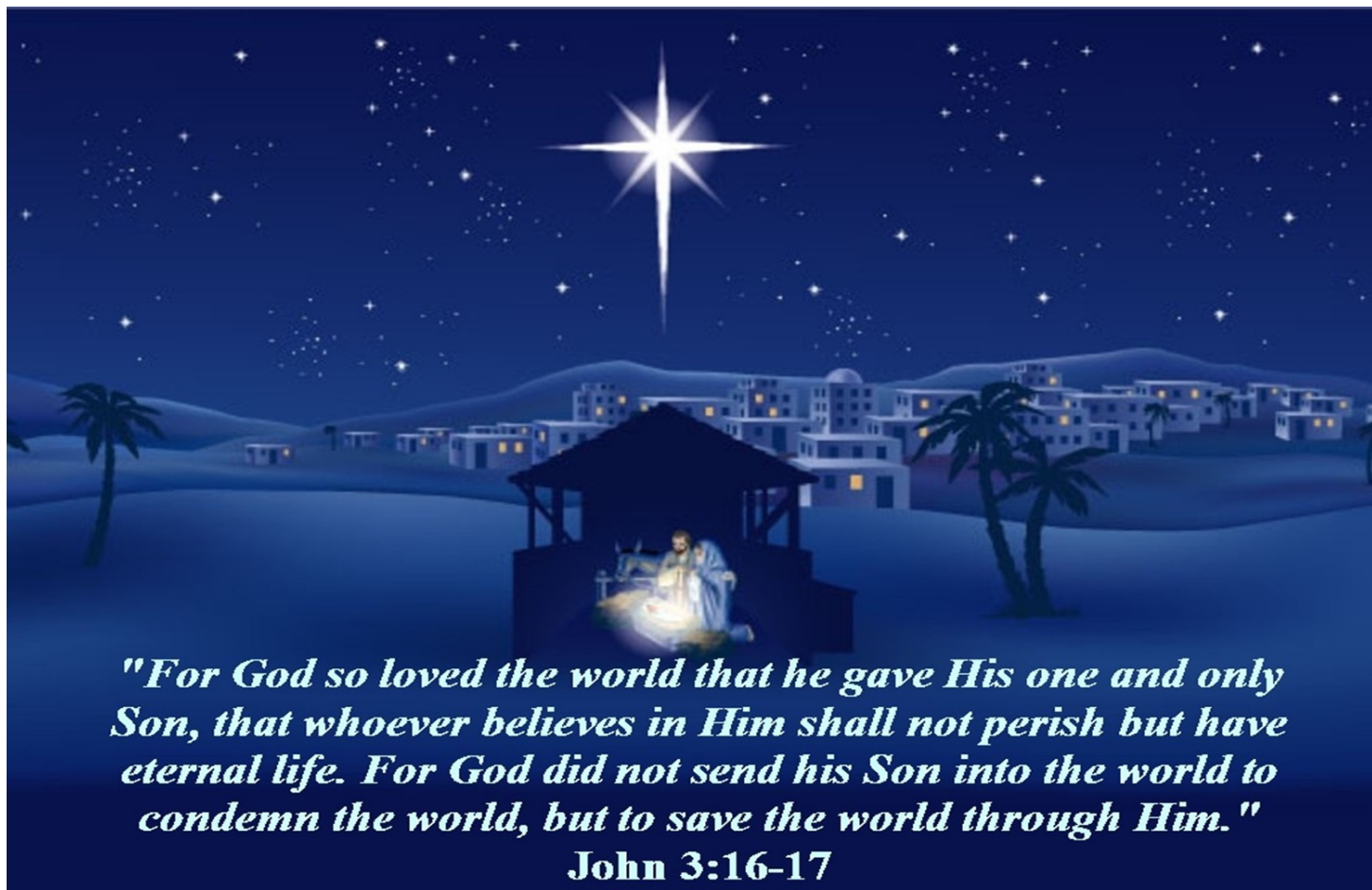
Celebrate Recovery

For many, the holidays bring joy and excitement, and special times with family. For others, the holidays bring sadness, anxiety, and grief. Those battling addictions of any kind often fall deeper into the addiction, and those who have overcome addictions often find themselves relapsing.

One of the foundations of our church is the Celebrate Recovery ministry. At Freedom Church, we believe that everyone is recovering from something. Celebrate Recovery is a Christ-centered recovery ministry for anyone struggling with hurt, pain or addiction of any kind. It is a safe place to find community, encouragement and freedom from the issues that are controlling your life or the life of someone you love. From the very first time you visit, you will never be asked to do anything to make yourself uncomfortable. We have seen lives transformed and healing from all forms of brokenness take place in CR! We meet at 6:15 on Thursday nights in the Grace Room and we would love to have you visit us. Supper and child-care are provided by the church.

Like us on Facebook!





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Keep up with our youth activities at Freedom Church Youth on Facebook!