



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,

Only a few times in our lives do we get to step from one decade into another. And here we are now, about to leave the "teens" and step into the 20's. Times like this always seem like a fitting time to reflect on the past, giving thanks to God, and to contemplate the future and what God has in store in the coming decade.

For many of us, the past decade was very significant in defining, or re-defining, the direction of our lives. In this past decade, I have found a wonderful, loving wife, planted a church that I love serving, bought a home, watched my oldest daughter get married, and watched my younger daughter give birth to both of my grandchildren...just to name a few of the events in my life this decade!

I suspect that you, likewise, have experienced some major changes and big blessings over the past ten years. Have you paused lately to reflect on that and to simply thank God for the people, situations, and blessings that He has brought your way?

And now we look ahead and consider what God has planned for the coming decade. As I said in my New Year's message, there are a couple of important questions that we all would do well to ask as we turn our attention to a new decade:

What do I need to "put off," and what do I need to "put on" as I step into a new decade?

Where are the closed doors, and where are the opened doors that God has for me this decade?

At the start of every new year, I always try to explore this first question. What needs to go away in my life, and what needs to be added? These two things are very related. When I let go of something that is unhealthy or unhelpful, I need to replace it with something positive. So what in your life needs the old "heave ho"? And what new habit, discipline or relationship do you need to pursue or add to your life as you begin a new decade?

You can also be sure that in the coming months and years, God will close some doors to situations or relationships that have been a regular part of our lives. Closed doors will mean changes, and we don't tend to like change. But when God closes a door, we can be certain that a new door of opportunity is about to be presented to us. So pray, listen and watch!

I am so excited by some of the doors of opportunity that God is already putting before Freedom Church in 2020. And I am thrilled that we get to share in this journey together!

You Are Loved!

Mark

January 2020 Special Dates

- Jan. 1: Happy New Year! (Youth WILL meet at normal time)
- Jan. 5: Esther Ahmad to speak in worship service
- Jan. 7: Baldwin County schools resume
- Jan. 12: Youth going to Winter Jam
- Jan. 12: Adult Small Groups resume
- Jan. 12: Core Team (3:30), Small Group Leaders (4:30)
- Jan 19: Communion
- Jan. 26: Connection Class (4:00)
- Celebrate Recovery every Thursday at 6:15 pm
- Freedom's youth meet on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm



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

Church-wide Daily Reading Plan for 2020

In 2020, we will be reading together through basically the entire Old Testament narrative, by reading one chapter each day. In other words, we will be reading through the stories of the Old Testament, but omitting most of the sections of laws, rituals, genealogies and much of the prophetic material. (We are not suggesting that these sections are unimportant, but we are trying to cover only 366 chapters in 366 days. Thus, major sections had to be omitted.) In addition, we will also read through the wisdom books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, and spend just a few weeks sampling several key chapters from among the prophetic books. Please join us in this journey as we grow and learn together!

January 1-4:	Genesis 1-4
January 5-11:	Genesis 5-11
January 12-18:	Genesis 12-18
January 19-25:	Genesis 19-25
January 26-Feb. 1:	Genesis 26-32

Special Guest on January 5th

We are honored to have a very special guest, Esther Ahmad, speaking during worship on Sunday, January 5th. Esther, author of *Defying Jihad*, is a former Muslim who fled her homeland of Pakistan due to life-threatening persecution for her faith in Jesus. She and her family were refugees in Malaysia for eight years before coming to the United States, where they live today. You don't want to miss Esther's remarkable testimony of a life-changing encounter with Jesus and the tumultuous and victorious events which followed her conversion!

Student Ministry — Winter Jam on January 12th

We're so excited to ring in a new year! There were so many great fellowship times and such growth in our youth in 2019, and we're looking forward to seeing where God takes us in 2020.

Youth WILL meet on Wednesday, January 1st, at our normal time to kick off 2020 together. Then on Sunday, January 12th, we plan to travel across the bay to Mobile for Winter Jam! It will be a fun time of worship with some great Christian artists. Tickets are not required. Please contact Stone or Caroline Keener for details.

Connection Class on January 26th

Are you new to Freedom and interested in learning more about who we are, where we are headed, and how you can be more involved? Are you interested in joining a small group or in joining the church? Do you have questions that you would like to ask Pastor Mark? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, please plan to join us, 4:00-5:30 pm, in the Grace Room on Sunday, January 26th. Childcare will be provided.



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