

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.”

Psalm 33:12a NKJV



BEREAN BIBLE CHURCH

Service of
Worship & Communion

Sunday, 3 November, 2019

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Wifi: BBC-GUEST

Sunday School 9:30am

Morning Worship - 10:40am | Evening Service - 6:00pm

Midweek Service (Wednesday) - 7:30pm

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ALL ARE WELCOME!

Dependent Independence

Sunday, November 3rd, 2019

The lively song entitled “God, bless Bim on Independence Day” will likely be heard far more often during this new month of November—arguably, the best month of the lot—than any other time of the year! Thousands of local primary school students and, perhaps, numerous more adults, who can still recall the lyrics (no lip-syncing allowed), will join in unison to proclaim the joyful celebration of Barbados’ 53rd year of independence from Great Britain. It is a privilege to be free. It is a joy to be independent.

In certain parts of the world, however, people are still fighting for their freedom—for their independence. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (the DRC), though their independence was achieved six years prior to Barbados’ own in 1966, it was quickly followed by much political unrest and violent warfare involving precious children.¹

Are they truly independent?

On paper it is one thing but, in reality, it is another. Yet it is out of this situation of paradoxical freedom that we find an invaluable lesson regarding our Christian liberty—our freedom in Christ.

To compound the already tumultuous situation in the DRC, only two months ago, news broke that an early morning mass casualty accident occurred. A passenger train ran off its tracks. At least fifty people died. “Another catastrophe!”, someone said on Twitter.² He probably had in mind a similar train incident that happened in March of this same year where twenty-four people, mostly children, also died.

When trains derail, they usually cause great damage, delay, disruption and even death! So long as a train remains on its tracks, therefore, it is free. It is independent. It is permitted to roam where it should. A mere venture off the rails usually brings the journey to a catastrophic halt. True freedom, true independence, then, comes through staying on the tracks. To obtain and

maintain maximum speed, optimal efficiency and, ultimately, the completion of the journey, a train should stay on course.

It is the same for us.

Yet, we are often deceived into thinking true freedom is found in going *off* course! Much of the allure of the world is designed to distract us— to get us off track. Yes, it can be thrilling to go off course. Sin is pleasurable, else few would engage in it. Thrill-seekers, in general, would love to be in a train as it careens down a hill or launches through the air. The challenge in that case is not so much the bumpy off-track ride or the weightless feeling in your chest or stomach as you drop. Rather, it is the sudden stop that it is the problem. Going off course can excite, but it is the crash that kills.

The Apostle Paul opens and closes the letter to the Romans by highlighting “the obedience of faith” (Romans 1:5; 16:26). Real faith obeys. True freedom in Christ is found in staying on course. True independence for the believer is found through living in line with the Gospel. Christian liberty is not an excuse to sin. It is the freedom to serve.

Though, there is no disputing the freedom that we have in Christ, it is a freedom that runs on train tracks or adheres to guidelines that the believer is happy to follow—happy to obey. We are independent yet we ought to demonstrate our dependence on God by following His rules—by obeying His commandments. These instructions are found in the Bible. Therein we find how to avoid a train wreck and how to enjoy the train ride.

What a marvelous difference it would make if our independent nation, Barbados, would commit to a resolute dependence on God in all things!

“God, bless Bim on Independence Day. God, bless Bim! We hope and pray.”

REV. PAUL GARNES

¹ https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democratic_Republic_of_the_Congo

² <https://edition.cnn.com/2019/09/12/africa/congo-train-derailment-intl/index.html>

Order of Service

November 3, 2019, 10:40 a.m.

“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord.” *Psalms 33:12a*

Opening Song – Berean Choir

Ministry of Music – Berean Choir

Invocation

Hymn 184 – Hallelujah, What a Saviour!

Song – He is Exalted

Sermon – Rev. Paul Garnes

Song – For Thou O Lord (I Exalt Thee)

Hymn 576 – Saviour... Shepherd Lead Us

Song – Alleluia...For God Almighty Reigns

Distribution of Elements

Reading – Psalm 33: 12-22

Special Offering

Hymn 1 – My Faith Has Found...

Reading – 2 Pet. 3:8-18 – Sis. A. Bourne

Prayer

Special Music - Bro. Ryan Bayne

Notices & Offering

Benediction – Berean Choir

ITEMS FOR PRAYER



- Thank God for blessing our Nation, over the past 53 years
- For the leadership, teachers and programs of our Sunday School
- For comfort to those grieving the loss of loved ones
- For the various ministries of the church
- Thank God for spiritual, emotional and physical healing
- For the Gideons, ISIVCF & CEF ministries
- For miraculous results from our Missions and Evangelism ministries
- For the treasured senior citizens of our congregation, including our shut-ins
- For economic recovery of our country
- For the peace of Jerusalem

November Birthdays

3 – Aletha Lynch
– Henderson Phillips
5 – Pearlita Seale
– Audrey Thomas
11 – Marva Blackette
12 – Rhonda Ifill

12 – Sandra Piggott
13 – Alfred Austin
15 – Darwin Brathwaite
20 – Angela Bourne
22 – Sheila Gill
23 – Joyy Ellis

24 – Jade King
24 – Paul Garnes
26 – Frances Patrick
27 – Cecille Reid
28 – Peter Thomas
29 – Malivia Garnes

Anniversaries

3 – Barry & Kim Ward
15 – Michael & Wendy Jones

28 – William & Wendene Wells