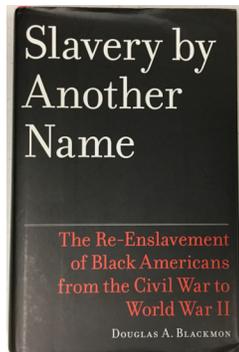


PASTOR'S CORNER

From the Desk of Pastor Daniel Simmons

Book of the Month



Slavery by Another

Name: *The Re-Enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II*

By: Douglas A. Blackmon
ISBN#978-0-385-50625-0

Readings on *Diligence*:

Week of *February 3-9*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18
 Deuteronomy 6:17

Week of *February 10-16*

1 Corinthians 15:58
 Colossians 3:23

Week of *February 17-23*

2 Timothy 2:15
 Proverbs 16:3

Week of *February 24-28*

Proverbs 4:23
 Proverbs 8:17

Divine Diligence

(Many Members, One Body)

“Now finish the work, so that your eager willingness to do it may be matched by your completion of it, according to your means.”

2 Corinthians 8:11 (NIV)

Diligence is a profound spiritual strength in our African American heritage. Our ancestry boasts some of the most tenacious peoples of color who experienced cruelty, injustice, and death. But through generations, nothing broke their diligence of rooted faith in God, their value of family, their love of people and their desire to have an ability and purpose to serve both God and mankind. The ruthless wounds that could have obliterated the soul of our rich, black culture were thwarted by our being rooted in the love of the Living God we serve.

When we reflect on the African American servants whose work laid the trail and set the course for future generations to continue breaking down barriers and building up bridges for our people, we also remember the innumerable servants who undergirded them by cooking meals, teaching their children, marching for the cause...and saying prayers. We consider the *diligence* of those who may not have lived to see what their efforts were in hope of. *But then again, perhaps they did see.* I say this because *hope emblazoned within the spirit of their being allowed them to experience what they foresaw as though it already existed!* Hope fueled their diligence, and *they trusted God to take care of everything else.*

Giving honor to God for the history of our people and our culture, I encourage us to stay the course in our goals for His Kingdom, for our lives, and for mankind with the same eagerness as our ancestors did, knowing that our ability to pray, plan, and prepare for future generations is the continuation of our story...a story that is filled with divine hope and God's Promises!

In His Service...*Pastor Daniel Simmons*