



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,

It's time to turn the page from 2018 to 2019. And as we close out another year at Freedom Church, we have much to be thankful for. This has, indeed, been a year of divine favor at Freedom Church!

Over the course of the past year, we have settled into our new home here in Fairhope. And with the move, we have seen dozens of new people become part of the Freedom Family in 2018. And we are much stronger as a result of both the move and the addition of so many new people.

This year God added Carl Wade as a new elder at Freedom. And additionally, He expanded our staff team by adding Dave Wilson as our Media Director and Katie & Charlie Lemon as our Student Pastors. And let me say that these are not just ho-hum, average additions. These four are wonderful people and strong additions to our leadership team!

In May, Butch Hedgepath led in Freedom's first major international mission trip, taking 15 people to Tizimin, Mexico, to minister to the Mayan people there and creating a lasting ministry partnership with our new friends at DCI ministries. This was a historic trip, not only because of the lives that were changed and impacted, but because it marks the genesis of the missions ministry of Freedom Church.

This has been a year in which we have seen the power of God poured out on lives with the results of people being healed, delivered, saved and baptized. And we give thanks for every changed life.

This has also been a year of incredible financial favor at Freedom. In early January of 2018, we were finishing paying the expenses for the renovation of, and relocation to, our new building. We anticipated this costing around \$150,000, and that would have stretched us financially since we only had about \$100,000 in the bank when the project started. But when all was said and done, the project cost over \$320,000! And by the grace of God, we moved into our new church home debt-free one year ago!!

We were debt-free, but we were essentially broke after paying for everything. Now fast-forward 12 months. On December 13th, we were able to purchase our building and the bank building next door to us! These facilities were conservatively valued at \$1,345,000, yet we were able to purchase everything for \$1,000,000. (That shouldn't be possible for a church that was essentially broke in January!) So we are ending the year now owning our building as well as new space for future growth, and we now have \$60,000 in the bank as operating capital. God is good, and His favor is accomplishing so much among us!

Your prayers, gifts and service have made such a difference. Thank you for making 2018 the best year yet at Freedom Church. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2019!

You Are Loved!
Mark

January 2019 Special Dates

- **Jan. 1: Begin new Bible-reading plan!**
- **Jan. 6: Adult Small Groups Resume**
- **Jan. 13: Core Team (2:15) & Small Group Leaders (3:00) Meetings**
- **Jan. 13: Connection Class (4:30-5:45)**
- **Jan. 21: MLK, Jr. Day**
- **Jan. 27: Communion**
- **Celebrate Recovery every Thursday at 6:15 pm**
- **Freedom's youth meet on Wednesdays, 6-8 pm**

Bible-Reading Plan for 2019

One of our major goals in 2019 is for every adult and teen to read together through the entire New Testament and the book of Psalms this year. (Did you realize that you can accomplish this by devoting just 5 minutes each day to Bible reading?) We will be following a reading plan for the next 52 weeks which will involve reading five chapters of the New Testament each week (Monday-Friday) and then shifting to readings from the Psalms each weekend. A major feature of this shared experience is that our small group discussions/lessons each week in 2019 will be taken from a portion of this devotional reading. So we will be reading and growing together. Pastor Mark has crafted a unique reading plan which will intersperse the gospels and Acts with the epistles and Revelation throughout the year. So be sure to pick up a copy of the reading plan in the foyer or access it on the church's website.

Read through the New Testament and Psalms in 2019:

Jan. 1-6:	Matthew 1-4 / Psalms 1-4
Jan. 7-13:	Matthew 5-9 / Psalms 5-7
Jan. 14-20:	Matthew 10-14 / Psalms 8-10
Jan. 21-27:	Matthew 15-19 / Psalms 11-14
Jan. 28-Feb. 3:	Matthew 20-24 / Psalms 15-17

First Week of Bible Reading Plan:

Jan. 1 (Tues.)	Matthew 1
Jan. 2 (Wed.)	Matthew 2
Jan. 3 (Thurs.)	Matthew 3
Jan. 4 (Fri.)	Matthew 4
Jan. 5 (Sat.)	Psalms 1-2

Missions

Greetings from the Freedom missions front! Please mark this on your calendars now: There will be an informational meeting about the upcoming May mission trip to Tizimin, Yucatan, Mexico on Tuesday, January 15th in the Grace Room at 7 pm. We'll give the details of the trip and hand out required forms you'll need as we start this delightful journey to the Land of the Mayans! We'll be partnering with DCI Missions for a week on May 29th - June 5th. Please don't miss this trip. You may remember DCI missionaries Bill and Kathy Craver, who spoke to us in September. I personally promise, this trip will change your life - for the better. It's so exciting to watch God work and be a part of His hands and feet to proclaim his word and show the love of Jesus!

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!"

-Psalm 96:3



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