



Welcome

We welcome you to the church of Christ that meets at Georgia Avenue, where we strive to follow God's plan for the church as outlined in the New Testament. We are glad that you're here. You are invited to worship with us in spirit and in truth and search the scriptures daily.

Sermon Text & Title

AM: "Excuses, Excuses,
Excuses"
Ex. 3:10-4:14

PM: "Why I Believe The
Bible"
John 12:48

Schedule of Services:

<i>Bible Study</i>	9 AM
<i>Sun AM Worship</i>	10 AM
<i>Sun PM Worship</i>	5 PM
<i>Wed Bible Class</i>	7 PM

- Gene Cooper, Minister
Tel: 703.380.6008
- Melvin Otey, Asst. Min.
Tel: 202.345.4528

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK:

"Did Jesus Really Walk the Earth?"

I recently read an article entitled "Jesus Christ" in *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*. It was predictably lengthy and wide-ranging, but one of its more interesting aspects was the discussion of proofs regarding Jesus' existence. Skeptics, particularly atheists and ethical relativists, have questioned whether He was a real person and often claim that He is nothing more than a mythological figure.

In an effort to discredit Christianity, many have tried to compare various aspects of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection to other religious traditions. For example, some compare His birth to traditions attached to Buddha, Krishna and Mithras. His miracles have been compared to the works of Hellenistic "divine men," and His death and resurrection are compared to the ancient Egyptian myths about Attis, Adonis, Osiris and Mythra. Of course, the Bible bears highly credible witness regarding the person and works of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:3-8; 2 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 1:1-3). However, because of ongoing skepticism from critics, it is important to note that there is independent and trustworthy evidence of His existence even from sources hostile to Christianity.

The article first refers to select Roman works. As the secular authority in power when Jesus lived, Roman citizens were uniquely positioned to comment on His existence and the facts surrounding His life. For example, the historian Tacitus wrote that Christ had been put to death as a punishment during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of Pontius Pilate. This is the exact historical setting that Luke records in his account of the gospel (Lk. 3:1) and confirms the accuracy of the political background of the gospel.

I found the article's reference to ancient Jewish sources most compelling. Obviously, Jews had no incentive to say anything that would support or endorse the early Christian movement, which would have been viewed as heretical. Yet, Jewish writings, both religious and secular, affirm Jesus' existence.

In rabbinic writings of the Talmud, there are statements confirming that Jesus' name was Yeshua of Nazareth, that He practiced "sorcery" (i.e., performed miracles), expounded scriptures in the same manner as the Pharisees, and that he was hanged (crucified) as a false teacher on the eve of the Passover. Likewise, the Jewish historian Josephus described Jesus as "a wise man," "a doer of marvellous deeds," "a teacher of men who receive the truth with pleasure," and "the Christ," while affirming that He was sentenced to the cross by Pilate upon the indictment of principal men among the Jews.

Whether people are prepared to accept the Bible's testimony regarding Jesus or not, there are too many secular, independent, and even hostile references to deny His existence in first century Palestine. Of course, by denying that Jesus ever walked the earth, people are striking at the very foundation of Christianity and attempting to undermine faith in the Bible as the authoritative word of God. Yet, the world has given us assurance that Jesus really did exist. He did perform miracles and He was crucified as the Bible says. The Bible is right; Jesus is the Son of God. Even if one does not accept the Bible's authority for his or her life, it is dishonest to deny that Jesus actually walked the earth in light of all the evidence that He did.

Bro. Melvin Otey

Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

“RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD”

TRANSLATIONS OF THE BIBLE—THE NKJV

#14 Like the KJV, the New King James Version (NKJV) is a complete or formal equivalence translation, which seeks to precisely preserve all of information in the original text in good literary form. For those who are hindered by the Elizabethan English of the KJV, the NKJV is a recommended alternative, written in clear, modern English, with the accuracy and beauty for which the KJV is renowned. Well over 100 scholars, church leaders and lay persons from numerous religious groups labored for seven years to produce it in 1982. They had the benefit of 300+ years of new archeological finds and manuscripts that were not available when the KJV was produced and offer footnotes concerning this new material where appropriate.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Toddler Class needs teachers! We are in need of sisters to teach the toddler Wed. night Bible class. Training will be offered and materials will be provided for interested persons. We asking for a 2-3 month commitment. Please see Sis. Ivy Edlow ASAP if you are interested. Thank you in advance for your help.

Lifelines Ministry Meeting, Tues, 1/15/08, 7PM. For additional information, please see Bro. Antoine Johnson.

“Women of the Word” Home Bible Study, Tues, 1/15/08. For additional information, please contact Sis. Mosby or Sis Edlow.

Door knocking, Sat., 1/19/08. We had a great day yesterday. Help us spread the word about the congregation and the open house. Please see Bro. Otey.

Ladies New Year’s Tea, Sat. 1/26/08, 1-3PM. All sisters are invited to attend a holiday tea at the Merriweather home. Please RSVP by Jan. 19 to Sis. Sheila Merriweather or Sister Bridgette Winbush.

Men’s Ministry Fellowship, Friday, 1/19/08. See Bro. Eaton for add’l info.

Georgia Ave coC Open House, Sunday, 1/27/08, 2–4PM. It’s a great time to invite friends, family, & co-workers to learn more about activities, ministries, etc. here at Georgia Avenue All are welcomed!

PRAYER REQUESTS

STATISTICS

January 6, 2008

Sunday School: 36 AM Worship: 53 PM Worship: 35 Wed Class: 39

WORSHIP LINE-UP

AM

Usher	C. Merriweather
Song Leader	B. Crutcher
Announcements	G. Cooper
Invocation	L. Clemons
Scrip Reading	L. Clemons
Message	M. Otey
Lord’s Table	C. Bingham
Assist	I. Thompson
	A. Johnson

Giving C. Bingham

Benediction K. Wall

PM

Usher	K. Wall
Song Leader	A. Johnson
Announcements	M. Otey
Invocation	I. Thompson
Scrip Reading	I. Thompson
Message	G. Cooper
Lord’s Table	D. Rogers
Assist	C. Bingham
	O. Eaton
Giving	D. Rogers
Benediction	N. Burkett

God’s Plan of Salvation

- Hear the Gospel.** Rom 10:17
- Believe in Jesus.** John 8:24; Heb. 11:6
- Repent of Sin.** Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30
- Confess Christ.** Rom. 10:9-10
- Be Baptized.** Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:38
- The Lord will add you to the church.** Acts 2:47
- Live Faithful Unto Death.** Rev. 2:10

Clean Up This Month:

Brigette Winbush & Chikara Saunders

Communion:

Roslyn Davis