

SO SEND I YOU, INC. 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Saint John Baptist Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2024 LENTEN DEVOTIONAL

Time: March 1, 2024 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every day, until Mar 31, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82089300351?pwd=qdHdd5LGaTRWPhJCRgOxsK6bL2Fnji.1>

Meeting ID: 820 8930 0351

Passcode: 628471

Dial by your location

- **+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**
- **+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)**

**DAY 15
FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2024**

PAUL'S MIND-BOBBLING CALL TO CHRIST

Dr. Riggins R. Earl, Jr. Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is his good, and pleasing perfect will.

Paul's call to self-transformation is a mind-boggling process. For Paul, it is a mysterious process that comes through the mind of Christ. This process counters what Paul calls "the pattern of this world." This pattern is the template of empire makers who allow it to be used by the demonic. The mind is for Paul both psychological and spiritual, and it is no less mysterious.

In this text, two contemporary concepts come to mind: "cloning" and "artificial intelligence" (A. I.). Jamie Foxx plays the role of a pimp in the movie "They Cloned Tyrone." The film dramatizes the potential of scientific white America, from the city's underground laboratory, to chemically control blacks' future through their food, drugs, drink, and music. In the movie, cloning is a being-altering event.

"A. I.," is another contemporary mind-boggling thought that Paul's exhortation elicits. A.I. accomplishes superhuman feats; with the possibilities of undermining the value of humans. This thought alone is unnerving. The ceaseless fear of the critical mind is that

the filthy rich will use A. I., guided by “the pattern of this world” to accelerate the exploitations of humanity.

The mind of Christ and self-transformation is for Paul the mysterious process that transcends all reality. It enables us to overcome selfishness which is motivated by “the pattern of this world.” It opens our blinded eyes to the transforming power of God. The mind of Christ gives us, through faith, the insight and strength to transcend the demonic “pattern of this world.” St. Augustine, a premier African scholar of the church, called that which enslaves us to the power and pattern of this world “selfishness.” For Paul, triumphant over self-centeredness is through Christ only. Being self-directed is being submissive to the rulers and makers of the “pattern of this world.” For this reason, it is sinful. Being Other-directed in Christ is salvation and liberation from “the pattern of this world.” Hence, Paul invites us to be submissive to Christ’s mind.

Prayer:

Lord renew our minds in Christ for our journey through this mind-boggling world. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.