

GREATER PROVIDENCE BAPTIST CHURCH

2019 Church Directory

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THEME:

Making Life Count In These Evil Days

“Be very **CAREFUL**, then, how you live, not as unwise but as **WISE**, making the **MOST** of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”

EPHESIANS 5:15-16, NIV

"Making Life Count In These Evil Days"

"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil."
Ephesians 5:15-16 (NIV)

We are blessed to celebrate another New Year due to the grace of God. I thank God for the life and legacy of deceased Christians within our church who fought a good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith (II Timothy 4:7). Our theme for 2019 reveals that life has a lot to do with the way in which we live. Paul encourages us to live one's life with the highest goal of integrity, decency, and godliness.

My brothers and sisters, time is winding up, therefore, we must do something good and righteous within the time we have left. We must strive to make life better for someone else within our family, church and city. We only have one opportunity to make our lives count, and this journey is no practice run. The appointed time is three score and ten years. None of us really know how long we shall live.

It is a fact that all of us are born to die. *"It does not matter how long you live, but how well you do it"* (Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.). We should not be satisfied just attending this church, but should join one or two ministries and faithfully participate in those ministries as well as church activities every month. I am growing older and will not be here much longer. We are growing older and we desperately need more young members to help make our ministries stronger.

Every day life is ticking away and it is a sad indictment to spend five, ten, or fifteen years and never participate in any ministry — other than to serve as a *pew member*. My brothers and sisters, especially those who are attending on an irregular basis, please plan on making a difference in 2019. You should not wait for someone to draft you — volunteer, strive to make a difference in the lives of others! When I consider what time we have left, we should love somebody, reach out and inspire somebody, steer somebody to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ. Every life has purpose!

Finally, Paul charges us to not live like fools because foolish people do not live for God. Fools do not value life. Fools despise wisdom and do not care who they hurt. We are living in evil days from Washington to North Carolina. Every day is given to us by God to get it right. We ought not disrespect what God gives us each new day.

Whatever the dream and whatever the goal, *"let us march on till victory is won"* (Lift Every Voice and Sing). We should live while we have life and help somebody along the way. First of all, we must honor God, do His will, and walk in His way. We must walk carefully because the days are evil. Without deliberate carefulness, the evil that surrounds us will overwhelm us.

We must make a difference while the blood is running warm in our veins and make life count. Every day we should love with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and maximize our time here on earth so that our living is not in vain. Dr. Rick Warren once said, *"Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning."* God wants us to *make the most* of every opportunity in these evil days.

Greater Providence is still a good church, but, we can help make it an excellent church through our participation and service to God, and to each other in 2019. Let us strive to make life count in our actions, words, and deeds.

We can do it as we press our way through another year, looking to God to lead and guide us every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Pastor Fred Gibson

If you're not making someone
else's life better, then you're
wasting your time.
Your life will become
better by making
other lives
better.

-Will Smith



Greater Providence Baptist Church 2019 Church Directory

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