



Central High School – Little Rock

By
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Day 2
February 23, 2023

Scriptures for Mediation

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 5:3-5

Critical Race Facts!

As the Civil War dragged on, however, increasing numbers of enslaved African Americans fled slavery to relocate behind Union lines, and the cause of emancipation became more militarily and politically expedient.

On January 1, 1863, President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared enslaved people residing in the rebelling Confederate states to be “then, thenceforward, and forever free.”

The proclamation did not apply to the roughly 425,000 enslaved people living in Tennessee, Delaware, Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland – states that had not seceded or were occupied by Union forces.

Prayer:

Lord, sometimes it seems like we are all alone, or that we are only surrounded by a few supporters. Help us to appreciate those who stand with us, and for You never leaving us. In Jesus Name, Amen.

It looked like a regular high school. It sounded like a regular high school. It even smelled like a regular high school. However, as I walked down those halls for the very first time, my mind was seized by reverence of what happened here just sixty-six years ago. It was on these hallowed grounds that: Melba Beals, Minnijean Brown-Trickey, Elizabeth Eckford, Ernest Green, Gloria Ray Karimark, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Thelma Mothershed-Wair, Terrence Roberts, and Jefferson Thomas, stepped onto the Little Rock Central High School campus and into history.

The group, later named “The Little Rock Nine,” were hand selected to integrate this school following the Brown versus Board of Education United States Supreme Court decision. They faced unbelievable opposition from over one thousand protestors and the force of the Arkansas Governor against them. Thanks to the new utilization of television, this story was broadcast around the world. President Eisenhower was forced to step in with the National Guard to assist the Little Rock Nine gain entry into the school.

The Little Rock Nine took to heart what it says in Romans 5:3-5, “We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love.”

The bravery of these young teens, aged 14-17, changed the world. Their faith, endurance, and strength paved the way for all people in future generations to have the ability to attend any school they choose. Today, Little Rock Central High School is a thriving educational pillar with over 2,400 students. I had the honor of working with the elite students at that school for several years. Thanks to the Little Rock Nine, those elite students were of many races and many different backgrounds. The Little Rock Nine endured their test, it developed their character, and today their hope has been realized.

Questions to Ponder

Who has God place by your side to walk with you? How have you shown your appreciation to that person or those persons?

