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PASTORAL LETTER – FEBRUARY 2022

Dear friend,

February is Black History Month, and ***“Black History Month is American History...it is not just an aside thing,”*** as a friend of mine who is a journalist once said in a newspaper column.

In honor of this important part of our national history, I will be sharing the meaningful contributions made by our African American brethren—not just from the past, but also from the present—in my sermons. We will be looking at the work of theologians, sports figures, and an abolitionist and women’s rights activist.

Our aim is to explore how the moral and spiritual character demonstrated by our African American brothers and sisters helped us change our attitude on the difficult and complex subject of race, and how their sacrifices have contributed to our nation’s improvement. Taking the time to observe the role and contributions made by others to the formation and rise of a nation is a biblical perspective.

As a matter of fact, Paul the Apostle recognized how the commitments made by ancient Israelites made it possible for future generations of Israelites to live in freedom and in better circumstances. In chapters 11 and 12 of the Book of Hebrews, Paul observes the faith and accomplishments exhibited by Hebrew matriarchs and patriarchs. He said, ***“...we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”***

Venerating the past and observing past figures can inspire us to move forward to a more perfect and ideal union with God and with each other.

In Christian friendship,
Pastor Luis