



Tennessee Headquarters Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Church Of God In Christ

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The Right Reverend David Allen Hall, Sr., Bishop of the Jurisdiction

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In the book of Genesis, Chapter 9, verse 6 says, "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man." Moreover, Romans 13:4 states, "For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil." I believe the Bible! However, those biblical scriptures are presently being administered in court through the lens of racial bias and animus toward people of color, in general and African Americans, in particular. Without question, these two biblical passages have been politically skewed. Capital punishment stands juxtaposed to the legal administration of law, because the legal system is mired in racism.

In today's America, capital punishment cannot deter, correct, nor provide retributive justice for the perpetrator or the victim. Capital punishment is primitive administration of justice and has been abused in America as nowhere else. Blacks do not get fair trials, and exoneration is difficult when Blacks are charged with killing Whites. The racial animus, arrogance, and the inconsistent application of jurisprudence for African Americans is a moral outrage. The Pervis Payne case was conducted some thirty years ago in the same contradictory manner!

Today, Black men and women are accosted, humiliated, challenged, hassled, detained, threatened, beaten, choked, and shot for simply being Black. Here in Tennessee, Mr. Payne is scheduled for clinical murder by this egregious penal system. We demand that he gets a proper hearing! George Floyd, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Philando Castile, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery did not get a hearing. This list of names asserts that the American judicial system is estranged from principle and has lost the intrinsic quality of justice for all!

In closing, there has never been a lynching in America that police and judicial authorities did not approve of, in some respect. Our District Attorney is demonstrating callous disregard for Mr. Payne's diminishing rights, life, and hopes. The State can afford to review both the Pervis Payne case and his mental disabilities. His former court proceedings were filled with supercharged racial bias and dog whistle language. Give Pervis Payne the last measure of human dignity, a reprieve, and spare his life.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop David Allen Hall, Sr.
Prelate, Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
The Public Saint

August 31, 2020

"VISION 20/20" Ephesians 1:17-19