



# Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta

By  
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**Day 8**  
**March 2, 2023**

## Scriptures for Mediation

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

**John 13:34-35**

## Critical Race Facts!

Before convict leasing officially ended, writes historian David Oshinsky, “generation of Black prisoners would suffer and die under conditions far worse than anything they had ever experienced as slaves.” Convict leasing demonstrated the way in which the criminal justice system would become the central institution for sustaining racial domination and hierarchy in America. It legitimized excessive punishment and abuse of African Americans and terrorized people of color.

## Prayer:

Lord, You have provided us church as a safe haven, a sanctuary, and as a stage to speak to the various issues of life. As the church has supported us, help us to forever support the church so that it may continue to be a safe haven, sanctuary and stage for future generations. In Jesus Name, Amen.

As a child growing up in Atlanta, Georgia I was always intrigued whenever my mom and I would go pass Ebenezer Baptist Church enroute to visit my grandma. I knew that Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his father Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. were both C-Pastor and Pastor of this church and were both Civil Rights activists.

Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded in 1886, nine years after Reconstruction ended by a band of 13 faithful people united under the leadership of the Reverend John Andrew Parker. He served as Ebenezer’s first Pastor at the original site on Airline Street from 1886 to 1894.

March 14, 1894, the Reverend Adam Daniel Williams, Martin Jr’s, maternal grandfather, became Ebenezer’s second Pastor with seventeen members on the roll. In just a year he grew the membership to 65. As Pastor, Reverend A.D. Williams promoted Black businesses and urged the congregation to become homeowners and get a piece of the turf. He led them in the battle for adequate public accommodations for Blacks despite Jim Crow laws.

Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. became pastor in 1931, following the death of Reverend Williams. In 1960, Rev. King Sr’s eldest son, Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., joined his father as Co-Pastor of Ebenezer giving Ebenezer international stature.

Many notables in the Civil Rights Movement have either been members or pastors at Ebenezer. Civil Rights meetings, funerals of dignitaries, Pastors that fought for the cause and politicians have been and still are members. To date “The honorable” Raphael Warnock, Georgia’s State Senator is Pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

## Questions to Ponder

What is the role of the Church in today’s society? What is the role of the preacher when it comes social and political issues? How should the preacher navigate his or her congregational pulpit with its communal pulpit?