



The 14th Amendment

By Brother Leon Whitehurst

Day 22
March 18, 2023

Read John 8:36

“So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Critical Race Facts!

In Dyersburg, Tennessee, Lation Scott was subjected to a brutal and prolonged lynching after being accused of “criminal assault.” Thousands gathered near a vacant lot across the street from the downtown courthouse and children sat atop their parents’ shoulders to get a better view as Mr. Scott’s clothes and skin were ripped off with knives. A mob tortured Mr. Scott with a hot poker iron, gouging out his eyes, shoving the hot poker down his throat and pressing it all over his body before castrating him and burning him alive over a slow fire. Mr. Scott’s torturous killing lasted more than three hours.

Today’s Prayer:

Lord, thank You for our dual citizenship. Your word tells us that we are citizens of Your kingdom, and citizens of this world’s order. Help our lives to reflect being good citizens in our community, country and Your kingdom. In Jesus Name, amen.

When I wake up in the morning, I breathe a breath of life that God instills in me! As I watch the Sunrise, birds majestically soaring in the heavens, clouds forming as God has placed them magnifying perfect peace, leads me to believe that only Almighty God has provided me another day. “Thank You, Lord!”

And as I write about the 14th Amendment, I am convinced that He had a hand in bringing about the 14th Amendment that benefits the Black community (and all people) and gives me hope for equality. The 14th amendment introduced was a necessary document for all citizens of the United States because it was the right thing to do.

The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was the most dynamic piece of the Reconstruction Amendments, which together abolished slavery, gave Black American men the right to vote, guaranteed full citizenship, due process, and equal protection of the laws to all. It was introduced to address the racial discrimination endured by Black people who were recently emancipated from slavery. The amendment confirmed the rights and privileges of citizenship and, for the first time, guaranteed all Americans equal protection under the laws.

Passed by the Senate on June 8, 1866, and ratified two years later, on July 9, 1868, the Fourteenth Amendment granted citizenship to all persons “born or naturalized in the United States,” including formerly enslaved people, and provided all citizens with “equal protection under the laws.”

It’s been 155 years since the 14th amendment was ratified and Black people were targeted to keep us from voting. Zion Baptist Church of Portsmouth, Virginia, is celebrating its 158th anniversary this year. Zion is older than the 14th Amendment. Yet, sadly, this year, 2023, voter suppression is alive and thriving in the United States. Gerrymandering, disenfranchisement, who is allowed to vote, having a criminal record, and changing the law by State representatives are a few examples. The struggle continues! To God be the Glory!