

## 1. READ

### **Bishop McBath's Selected Scriptures: Romans 13 : 7 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>7</sup> Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority.

### **1 Timothy 5 : 17 - 19 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>17</sup> Elders who do their work well should be respected and paid well, especially those who work hard at both preaching and teaching. <sup>18</sup> For the Scripture says, "You must not muzzle an ox to keep it from eating as it treads out the grain." And in another place, "Those who work deserve their pay!" <sup>19</sup> Do not listen to an accusation against an elder unless it is confirmed by two or three witnesses.

### **Further Reading: Psalm 119 : 105 – 112 New Living Translation (NLT)**

<sup>105</sup> Your word is a lamp to guide my feet  
and a light for my path.  
<sup>106</sup> I've promised it once, and I'll promise it again:  
I will obey your righteous regulations.  
<sup>107</sup> I have suffered much, O Lord;  
restore my life again as you promised.  
<sup>108</sup> Lord, accept my offering of praise,  
and teach me your regulations.  
<sup>109</sup> My life constantly hangs in the balance,  
but I will not stop obeying your instructions.  
<sup>110</sup> The wicked have set their traps for me,  
but I will not turn from your commandments.  
<sup>111</sup> Your laws are my treasure;  
they are my heart's delight.  
<sup>112</sup> I am determined to keep your decrees  
to the very end.



# UNLEASHED

## STUDY GUIDE

### 2. REFLECT

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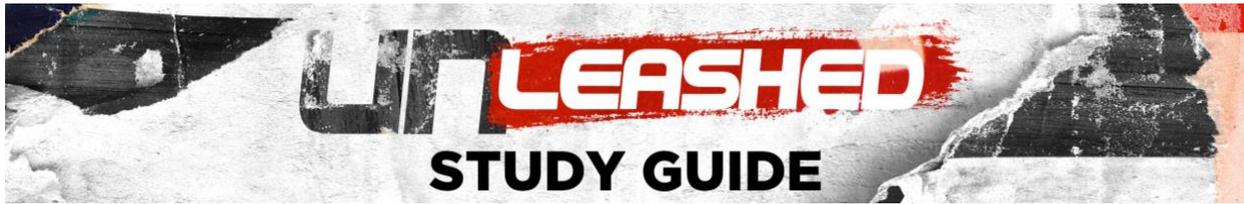
During the month of September, we have been blessed to celebrate several tremendous occasions as a church family. In addition to all of the wonderful projects and initiatives that are happening across the life of our church, we celebrated two incredible Groundbreaking services, became a consolidation services hub through our Kingdom Community Development Corporation (CDC), and hosted the inaugural summit and launch of The Black IDEA Coalition. Kingdom Fellowship has certainly been busy! However, none of this would have been possible without the phenomenal leadership of our Senior Pastor, Rev. Matthew Lawrence Watley.

With that being said, this weekend is perhaps the most important of all. It is our distinct honor to congratulate our Senior Pastor on his Pastoral Anniversary. In addition to celebrating his birthday this past week, our church family proudly commends Pastor Watley on his first year as the Senior Pastor of Kingdom Fellowship AME Church and 25 years in ministry! We are grateful and indebted to Pastor Watley for his visionary leadership, unwavering love, and consistent care for each of us. We are blessed to call him our pastor and his presence in our lives is a reflection of the depth of God's love. For this reason, today and every day, we thank God for the gift we've been given and celebrate this incredible milestone.

### **Congratulations Pastor Watley!**

To help us celebrate our Senior Pastor, we have been joined by a dear friend of Kingdom Fellowship. Today Bishop Courtney McBath, Senior Pastor of Calvary Revival Church, has been teaching on what it means to show honor and appreciation to our leaders. As a friend of the



The banner features the word "UNLEASHED" in a large, bold, white font with a red shadow effect, set against a background of a torn, white paper-like texture. Below it, the words "STUDY GUIDE" are written in a smaller, bold, black font.

# UNLEASHED

## STUDY GUIDE

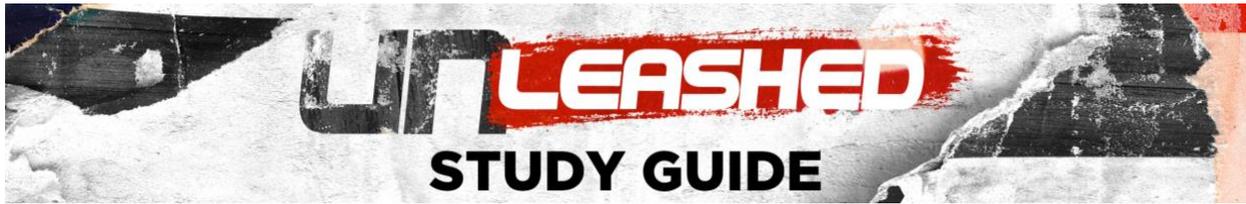
Watley family, Bishop McBath knows that we are indeed a favored congregation if God decided to send us this Pastor and First Family. Through Bishop McBath's teaching, we have learned how to show gratitude to God, our leaders, and each other in a way that enriches each area of our lives.

In our lesson for today entitled, "The Giving the Gift of Honor" or "The Power of Appreciation," Bishop McBath reminds us that celebrating someone isn't just a nice thing to do, but it is also a biblical command. Across scripture, we can find evidence of people bestowing honor and appreciation to God and all of God's creation. Specifically, in our passage for today (Romans 13:7), Paul directs the early church to, "Give to everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority." Now for anyone that has ever paid adult taxes, this may not be an appealing scripture. The mere thought of tax season may induce anxiety and cold sweats for many of us. However, there is something important about this idea!

The average person cannot let a year go by without paying their income taxes, much less make a purchase without a percentage of their charge being attributed to sales tax. This practice is second nature to us and has become so common that it is a part of our day-to-day lives. In the same way, how can we "give respect and honor to those who are in authority" so frequently that it becomes second nature? How can we make the gift of honor a part of our daily lives? Perhaps Paul was trying to communicate to us that giving honor is not meant to be sporadic. Instead, our honor and appreciation should be a consistent practice, freely given to those around us. Just as we are consistently mindful of our responsibility to pay dues, taxes, and fees, we should also be mindful of our responsibility to show honor, appreciation, and respect to others.

Bishop McBath furthers Paul's point by demonstrating the power of appreciation. Much like the financial principle, when something "appreciates" it increases in value. In the same way, when we appreciate someone, their value increases in our eyes. The more we bestow honor, the greater level of value and esteem that person accumulates. However that value is not one-sided. As Bishop McBath notes, "honor is not biblical unless it is mutual." With this in mind, when we operate in the gift of honor and appreciation, everything around us increases in value. Our ministries begin to grow, our relationships begin to flourish, and our lives begin to reflect the abundance God's love. In addition, walking in the gift of honor truly allows us to be consistently mindful and grateful for the people God has placed in our lives.

Using his second selected passage (1 Timothy 5:17-19), Bishop McBath teaches us that in order to walk in the gift of honor, we must remember three things: **Give honor to those in authority**, **Give honor to those that work hard**, and **Give honor to those who teach well**. As we take this weekend to celebrate a man that embodies all three of these characteristics, we can take pride in knowing that we do not bestow honor because he demands it, but we bestow honor because he deserves it! Thank you Pastor Watley for your tremendous leadership. Happy Anniversary!



### 3. RESPOND

#### **Introspective Questions**

- How can you make the *Gift of Honor* a part of your daily life?
- Identify someone in your life that you appreciate. How can you communicate your appreciation to them?

#### **Discussion Questions**

- What is this passage of scripture saying to you?
- Why do you think Paul uses an ox as a metaphor in 1 Timothy 5:17-19?

