



The Historic CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH *of Dover, Delaware*

Established 1884

The Place Where Life Begins

Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D.Min., Senior Pastor

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Greetings, CBC Family and Friends,

Graduation season is upon us, and we congratulate the class of 2024.

I am a big advocate of education and am a “career student,” graduating five times since I finished high school. My grandmother was my greatest supporter and taught me the importance of what she did not have the opportunity to complete in her lifetime—an education.

As people of color, we have always had to do more, work harder, and demonstrate a wherewithal that others have not. We do not have privilege on our side. So, it is important that we understand that cognitive and critical thinking will be what separates those who desire a prosperous future from those who are simply content with getting by.

As Black people, we must never overlook or neglect the importance of our history. Our history did not begin when our ancestors arrived in this country. We had a history long before that—one that emphasized our worth and dignity as human beings. When we fail to value that history, we place our children—and ourselves—in a vulnerable place that undermines our future.

There is a difference between educating and training. The term “educate” comes from the Latin word “educō,” which means to “draw out.” Training provides short-term proficiency. Both are good, but if we are not “drawing out,” we are simply training our children to conform to a system.

The effects of slavery continue to affect us in terms of unity, value, cooperation, and self-help. There has to be a method of unlearning systems that have failed us and our children and made us victims. We have to promote both intellectual and cultural freedom.

A 2015 study stated, “Educational expectations are lower for Black children.” In other words, there is this expectation that Black children are not expected to attain as much educationally as White children. However, let us be clear—education and intelligence are NOT “a White thing,” so let us destroy that lie. We must demand the best in every way and meet every challenge. Mediocrity is not an option. When education is valued, lives change, and our communities are better.

Bishop W. James Thomas, II, D.Min., Senior Pastor
Calvary Baptist Church of Dover, Delaware



www.calvaryforward.org

Mail: Post Office Box 1859 | Dover, DE 19903 † Campus: 410 Fulton Street | Dover, DE 19904

Office (302) 736-6554 | Fax (302) 734-7790 | info@calvaryforward.org