

Burnett Avenue Baptist Church
Bible Study
Wednesday, February 25, 2026
Dr. Daniel Corrie Shull, Facilitator



The Gospel Beyond the Grave: Toward a Black Theology of Hope - Chapter 1

Luke 9:37–43

WORDS TO KNOW

Heresy - a belief that is contrary to _____ religious doctrine.

Orthodox - adherence to traditional, established, or conventional _____.

Idolatry - the process of _____ a god that is a projection of yourself.

Whiteness - a socially constructed, historically evolving _____ defining a structural, ideological, and cultural position of privilege, rather than merely skin color.

Racism - the historic and cultural system, undergirded by power, designed to oppress Black and Brown people.

PEOPLE TO KNOW

John Calvin - French theologian and Reformer who was highly influential in the Protestant Reformation.

Jeremiah Wright - Chicago UCC Pastor, Liberationist Theologian, and author.

James Cone - Father of Black Liberation Theology, theologian, and Professor.

Augustine - Fourth Century African Bishop of Hippo

Frederick Douglass - 19th Century Abolitionist and Christian Thinker

David Walker - 19th Century abolitionist.

I. THE CRISIS OF POISONED RELIGION

LEWIS BROGDON

foreword by Stephen G. Ray Jr.

II. HOW IDOLATRY MAKES CHRISTIANS INEFFECTIVE

- Idolatry is _____ we place before God.
- Idols drain our spiritual _____ and distort our purpose.

Examples include:

- Power
 - Money
 - Prestige
 - Comfort
 - Politics
 - Personal image
- Augustine of Hippo taught that idolatry is “worshipping what should be used or using what should be worshipped.”
 - John Calvin described idolatry as giving created things the honor due only to God.

III. Image Problem: Creating God in Our Image Instead of Reflecting His Image

Read Genesis 1:27.

Idolatry reverses God’s original intent in that we often attempt to create a god that looks like our preferences, politics, and prejudices.

How can our personal biases limit how God works through us?
