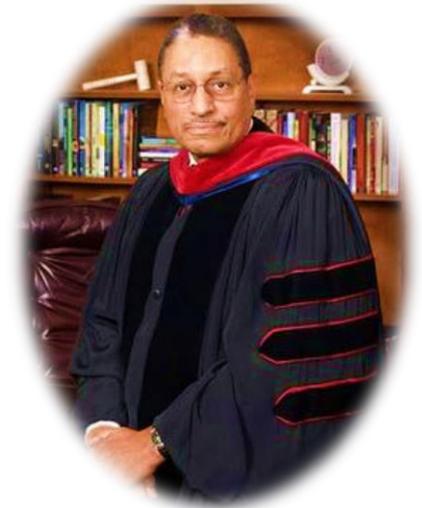


# *The Pastor's Pen*

**October 22, 2017**

**Wallace Charles Smith, D.Min.  
Senior Minister**



The fourth weekend in October is when we pause to celebrate the tireless work of Shiloh's General Usher Board. Week in and week out, not to mention funerals and special services, Shiloh's ushers are on the job, in place, and ready to serve the Lord. We deeply appreciate their devotion and discipleship. We thank God for some of the finest ushers in all of the Christian world.

Last week we announced the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Deaconess Emerita Mary Jackson, longtime devoted member of Haggai Circle. This week we thank God for Shiloh's newest centenarian, Deaconess Emerita Elsie Wallace. Over the years, she devoted her time and service faithfully to Shiloh, to include serving as leader of Berean Circle for many years. We thank God for Mrs. Wallace and for the inspiration to us all she continues to provide.

The Affordable Care Act (Obama Care) continues to be under attack by the conservative forces in this Nation. Health care is a justice issue. It is unjust to say that people who can afford health care are entitled to it, while those who are the underemployed do not deserve that right. The underemployed work hard and should be supported at the break points of their lives. Whether they work in the food service industry, or are clerks at Walmart, they do not deserve to be denied coverage for pre-existent conditions, or denied the necessary examinations that detect potentially catastrophic illnesses while they may still be treated. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, with the New Deal, established a social contract that citizens of the United States deserved a government that provided a social safety net to keep them when they were falling and could not support themselves. One of the greatest tragedies of our time is that the social safety net is being cut down and replaced by the societal notion that only the rich should enjoy fundamental human rights. The Bible refutes that idea, as does the history of our faith, as does the one who died on the cross to set captives free, Jesus of Nazareth.

The tax cuts being proposed are another example of injustice. They are being presented by the powers that be as tax breaks for the middle class; nothing could be further from the truth. They are, instead, tax breaks for the wealthy – period! Do not be deceived by the defenses articulated by the authors of this proposed legislation. Go online and read the Bill or consult our Social Justice Ministry for further explanation. Churches must stand up and follow the example of our Lord Jesus, who was not crucified because He was gentle, meek and mild, but because Rome believed He was an enemy of the state who was bound and determined to expose them and their puppets, the Jewish hierarchy, for what they were, forces in opposition to the kingdom of God.