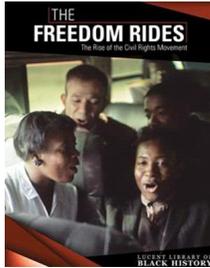


BOOK OF THE MONTH



The Freedom Riders: The Rise of the Civil Rights Movement
By: Sarah Machajewski
ISBN#: 978-1-5345-6239-4

AND



Skin Like Mine
By: LaTashia M. Perry
ISBN #: 978-0-9971-5798-4

SCRIPTURES:

Jesus Is Our Foundation**Feb 1-6**

1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:19-22

Feb 7-13

Luke 6:47-49

Feb 14-20

Isaiah 28:16

Feb 21-27

1 Corinthians 3:13-16

Feb 28

Isaiah 66:1-2

Let's Help Each Other Build Each Other Up

But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10b-11

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:15-16

It's no secret that Jesus is the solid Way, Truth, and Light we need in our lives to help us be better people. All of creation belongs to Him, but not all people belong to Him – meaning that all people have not accepted Him as their Lord and Savior. It's sad, because accepting Jesus automatically undergirds us with His foundation and covers us with His headship. Without Him, we just wander around building things that won't last and missing out on what can be everlasting joy if we would only help each other build each other up.

There are numerous reasons why people struggle with connecting to one another for the good of all. But our differences continue to be the prominent factor. To be rooted in the love of Jesus is to understand that we all are loved and cared for by God. He made each of us different and unique for His purpose and pleasure. And all of us can find our identities in this one True God.

There is so much promise and favor that remains on standby to bless us as a people – if we would just embrace our differences instead of judging them. You, me, him, her, and them over there – we can help each other build each other up with the love of Jesus! If God doesn't have a complaint against us – *except that we are complaining and fighting against one another* – then it is possible for us to put our heads, hearts, and hands together and rise up as a strong body built on a strong foundation and led by a majestic Savior!

Maybe we need to sing and worship more consistently while we come together and find our common ground. Singing is a universal language that every heart responds to. The *harmony* that *differing voices* make when they *'blend together'* that causes music work. Perhaps we can lay our physical blinders down and agree on a vision of living and working together in Kingdom harmony. I think God would be well pleased...wouldn't you be, too? We can do more than imagine it. We can build it...together.

Pastor Daniel Simmons