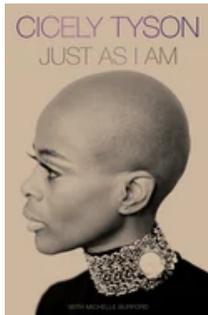


**BOOK OF THE MONTH**

***Just As I Am: A Memoir***  
**By: Cicely Tyson with**  
**Michelle Burford**  
**ISBN#: 978-0-0629-3106-1**

**SCRIPTURES:****Come Just As You Are**

**March 1-6**  
 James 2:1-26

**March 7-13**  
 Romans 6:1-23

**March 14-20**  
 Isaiah 55:1-13

**March 21-27**  
 Ephesians 2:1-22

**March 28-31**  
 Revelation 22:17

***Jesus Says, "Come To Me."***

*All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. --- John 6:37*

No one on earth can stop us from receiving the love of Jesus. No one can deny us our right to freely receive what Jesus wants to give us. Whatever our condition, whatever the state of our life affairs – right now in this very moment – we are everything we need to be for Jesus to receive us. Yes, just as we are - Jesus says, "Come to Me."

Have you ever known people who fell away from attending church? When you see them out in the community, do they tell you they have to 'get themselves right' before they can return to corporate fellowship? Perhaps we've all felt this way at one time or another in our spiritual journey. We cannot get ourselves right enough to go before the Lord, and thank God we don't have to! If this were the case, we'd never make it into His Presence!

Sadly, many believers struggle with the fact that there is no rigorous mandate for us to fulfill in order for Jesus to accept us. We mustn't confuse the rules that apply to worldly religion with the bond of unconditional love we have in our relationship with our Savior. He purposely died for our sins so He could live forevermore to receive us as His own in Eternity.

This is the message we, the church, want to get right within ourselves so we can make it clear to all the world: "*Whoever you are, wherever you are, whatever you have done, and however you feel about yourself and your life – Jesus beckons you to come to Him today just as you are, and He promises He'll never turn you away.*" The invitation is extended. *Won't you come?*

*Pastor Daniel Simmons*