

Eric Bittiger

Professor Perez

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### The Black Church by Charles Galbreath

I found Pastor Galbreath to be a very compelling and informative speaker. I learned he is a 2006 alumni of Nyack College now Alliance University and a 2009 graduate of the Alliance Theological Seminary. He is currently the Associate Dean of ATS. He is also the senior pastor at the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Brooklyn, NY. He is also part of the non-profit organization called the God Squad which addresses gun violence in Brooklyn as well as addressing victim services and youth programs.

The first topic I learned about from Pastor Galbreath is that he speaks to the framework of black religion tradition, black development, and all America development in the US. These are people who have been down and are seeking liberation and freedom. How he would define the black church is by the work liberation because this word encompasses eternal and continual freedom. Also states the ideas, images and reflections of the black church is represented by singing, freedom, family, and soulfulness.

He answers the question “Why the Black Church” by stating that there is some uniqueness concerning the black church because it was forced to be a black church. Black church was born fighting for freedom. It is also known as the invisible institution because enslaved people were not allowed to gather to worship and pray. They had to hide out in backwoods and bayous of plantations to worship their God. The black church was their sole source of personal identity and sense of community.

Finally, he states in his lecture that there is a cultural disconnect between Black preaching and the culture reality of the Black people. Black youth in the community have no connection to the church or the history of African American preaching. The current generation has to relearn the historical black church through two sources; the bible which has been the center of teaching, preaching and worship. The bible gives them hope. And also the black pastor who is the most important leader in the educational ministry of the black church. He advocates for the people and takes care of their needs.