To Alfred Daniel King

31 October 1956

[Montgomery, Ala.]

King sends an unidentified sermon to help his younger brother prepare for his first sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, where he was to serve as assistant pastor under his father.¹

Mr. A. D. King
501 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear A. D.:

Enclosed is a copy of the sermon which I mentioned to you. I hope you will find it useful. I am looking forward with great anticipation to being with you on the evening of your initial sermon. I am sure everything will go extraordinarily well. Give my regards to the family. Coretta and I are doing fine.

Sincerely,

Martin

MLK:b

enclosure

TLc. MLKP-MBU: Box 61.

¹ Alfred Daniel Williams King (1930–1969) attended Palmer Institute in North Carolina before receiving his B.A. (1959) at Morehouse College. His brother and father were among those who ordained him as a minister on 5 June 1957 at Ebenezer. He assisted his father at Ebenezer from December 1956 until early 1959, when he became pastor of Mount Vernon First Baptist Church in Newnan, Georgia. In 1963 A. D. King was pastor of Ensley's First Street Baptist Church and a leader of the Birmingham movement. On 11 May 1963 his parsonage was bombed along with the Gaston Hotel, where King, Jr., was staying. A. D. King later moved to Louisville, Kentucky, to become pastor of Zion Baptist Church. After his brother's death in 1968 A. D. returned to Atlanta to serve as co-pastor of Ebenezer with his father.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers Project
enjoin the city from interfering with its car pool. At about 10:30 that night, the city delivered its own petition asking Judge Eugene Carter to ban the MIA car pool because it lacked a license. On 2 November Judge Carter scheduled a hearing for 13 November.

B F McLaurin
217 W 125th St.
Room 301

City of Montgomery is presently in the process of seeking an injunction against the Montgomery Improvement Association. This injunction is expected to be issued today. In the light of this injunction it will be necessary to re-organize the total structure of our transportation system. This issue demands my immediate personal attention. It is absolutely necessary for me to have a series of meetings and an executive board meeting this afternoon. It is therefore necessary for me to cancel my engagement in Newark. I can assure you that it is with deepest regret that this decision must be made. I had looked forward with great anticipation to a rich experience in Newark. However, I am sure that you understand the many emergencies that arise in this type of situation. I hope that my absence will not seriously hamper your program. You have my prayers and best wishes for a most successful meeting.

Rev. M. L. King Jr.

TWe. MLKP-MBU: Box 61.

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"Paul’s Letter to American Christians,"
Sermon Delivered at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church

4 November 1956
Montgomery, Ala.

In this Dexter sermon King reads a fictional letter from the apostle Paul to American Christians of the mid-twentieth century. Loosely based on Paul’s letter to the Romans, King’s sermon notes the gap between the nation’s scientific progress and its ethical and spiritual development. Deploring exploitative capitalism, spiritual arrogance, racial segregation, and self-righteous egotism, he offers the remedy of Christian love. “Only through achieving this love,” King writes, “can you expect to matriculate into the university of eternal life.” King delivered the same sermon on 7 September at the National Baptist Convention.

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1. For details of the reception it found there, see C. W. Kelly to King, 8 September 1956, pp. 365–366 in this volume. King later published the sermon in revised form in Strength to Love (1963).