

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE 2024 PRE-RAMADAN LECTURE

Delivered on 7th March 2024/26 Shaban 1445AH

As-Salam alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu,

It is with such delight and excitement that I welcome you all to the 2024 Pre-Ramadan Lecture. Firstly, I give my gratitude and praises in its entirety to Allah (SWT) for making the celebration of my first-year anniversary as the fourth Substantive Vice-Chancellor of Fountain University Osogbo on March 1st a huge success (Alhamdulillah Robbil Alamin). My sincere appreciation and gratitude goes to the entire University community, particularly the Principal officers, members of the Ceremonial committee, and the Deans for the support and effort put into making the occasion a success. I say Jazakumullah Khayran.

I wish to express our heartfelt appreciation to the guest lecturer of 1445 AH- 2024 Pre-ramadan lecture Dr Taofeek Abdulhammed for graciously accepting our invitation to give a soul-filling lecture and impart his knowledge of the ways of Islam. I warmly welcome you to Fountain University Osogbo.

Fountain University is an Islamic Faith-Based Institution famous for striving to impart knowledge in the academic sphere as well as the Islamic ways to produce competent graduates that positively improve the status quo of our society and the world at large. I must commend our Muslim Community particularly the Chairman, Prof AJK Shittu for upholding this mission and also his thoughtfulness in organizing a Pre-Ramadan Lecture titled “The Shield of Ramadan: Nurturing Piety in a Chaotic World”.

Ramadan is the holiest month in Islam, a time when we focus on spiritual rejuvenation, self-reflection, and the purification of our souls. It is a month when we strive to attain greater levels of piety, righteousness, and nearness to Allah (SWT).

In Surah Al-Baqarah (2:183-185) Allah says "O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may become righteous". As Muslims Allah has commanded that we fast, observe piety, and strive for the righteous path at all times, especially in the month of Ramadan. Taqwa (Piety) is often described as constant consciousness or mindfulness of Allah. The awareness that Allah is ever-watchful, ever-present, and ever-merciful.

The world today is filled with myriad of chaos in various forms from the ongoing injustice and crisis in Palestine to the political troubles and conflict in Sudan to the proliferation of numerous social vices that threaten the fabric of society. Without any doubt, we (Muslims) around the world have found ourselves in a precarious situation, Allah's aid and mercy is sought. In the face of this turmoil, nurturing piety becomes not only a personal pursuit but a collective imperative responsibility—a beacon of hope amidst the darkness, shielding and guiding us.

Lest we forget, Allah in Surah Al-Ankabut (29:49) says "But those who strive for Our sake, we will surely guide them to Our ways. And indeed, Allah is with the doers of good." We have gathered here to straighten our ways to the path of Allah and to drench our souls with the words of Allah and his beloved prophet (SAW) to this effect our esteemed lecturer of today, Dr Taofeek Abdulhammed shall be delivering a lecture on "The Shield of Ramadan: Nurturing Piety in a Chaotic World". It is quintessential that we pay due and curt attention during the course of the lecture. The Ummah of the Prophet Muhammed (SAW) has a duty to seek knowledge from far and wide. Today, knowledge has been brought to our near, it is our charge to cultivate it for a fruitful yield in the holy month of Ramadan and beyond.

Once again, Distinguished members of Staff and great students of Fountain University, let me on your behalf welcome our esteemed guest lecturer, Dr Taofeek Abdulhammed to Fountain University, the citadel that Leads and Others follows as he takes us on a journey titled "The Shield of Ramadan: Nurturing Piety in a Chaotic World".

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu.