

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

January 31, 2021

When we add the last couple of weeks to most of last year it may cause us to raise our hands and signal “time out.” No matter what our political persuasions are, lives have been lost for months; lives lost as a result of an angry mob. Consequently, unnecessary loss of life can create a litany of questions. Some people may approach these questions from a political perspective, while others may use their past experiences. I would rather look at all that has taken place and reflect on it from God's Word; I am told not to lean to my own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6; 1 Corinthians 1:20-25).

When there is this much division, James describes it in this manner; "Who among you is wise and understanding?

..... But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your heart, do not be arrogant and so lie against the truth. This wisdom is not that which comes down from above but is earthly, natural, demonic. For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there is disorder and every evil thing." (James 3:13-17; NASB)

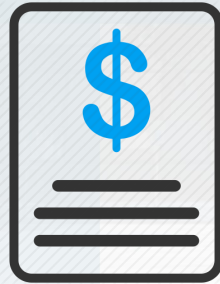
When the government makes decisions that we may stand opposed to, what does God expect of us as His followers since we are first “His citizens of His nation” (Ephesians 2:17-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10). "Let every person be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore, he who resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God, and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves.... for it is a minister of God to you for good... (Romans 13:1-7; NASB) Please note that Christ, through Paul, is speaking to believers in Rome. Those in government most likely were not believers, and later Rome persecuted believers horribly. Believers living in these horrible circumstances were told the same thing (1 Peter 2:13-17). Before those who like the new President say, “Praise the Lord,” we must first ask the question; If this was President Trump, would we still say “Amen?” Following the Lord is not being led by circumstances. We are expected to focus on how these circumstances cause us to grow spiritually as we renew our mind (James 1:2-4; Ephesians 2:15-18; Galatians 2:20). These circumstances come and go. Fifty years from now it is a history lesson. Our decisions for Christ last forever and leave a legacy in the hearts of those we love. Colossians 2:8-10 says; "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception... rather than according to Christ..., and He is the head over all rule and authority."

For a country to remain strong at its' core, we must remain the salt and light (Matthew 5:16) and the church, the pillar of truth (1 Timothy 3:15) or there is no hope for our children (1 Peter 4:17; also read verse 12-19).

Pray for our country and remain focused.



UPCOMING Events



Contribution Statement 2020

Contribution Statements for 2020 can be submitted by **REQUEST ONLY** online.

You will be able to request the statement to be sent three ways as listed below when the form is completed.

- Email
- Pickup – based on the day you choose on the form. (Pickup is only available from Monday – Friday between 11:00 – 5:00.)
- Mail

We will need 48 hours to have your Contribution Statement prepared.

LIFE APP

Life Application Class

[Bit.ly/lwflifeapp](https://bit.ly/lwflifeapp)

This is the link in which to retrieve our Life App lessons. Please join us each **Sunday at 10am.**

NEXT STEPS

New Members Classes

The New Member Orientation Classes will resume **Sunday, February 7, 2021, 8am - 10am**, Legacy Fellowship Hall (*in person*). Online classes will also start on Sunday, February 7. A link will be provided for you.

Contact Pastor Lawrence (281) 260-7402 or dlawrence@lwfellowshipchurch.org.



One Love Valentine

For all you married love birds out there, get ready to experience a time of love with your spouse with the Marriage's Ministry's "One Love" Valentines event.

The event takes place Friday **February 12th @7pm** through Zoom. Contact Terry Randle for more information: lwfcmarriagein@gmail.com



Black History Month

We would like to commemorate those who strive to achieve change and make differences across the world. In celebration, we would have several events throughout the month of February within different ministries.

Join us for an exciting **outdoor movie night** as we view a historical film on **Friday, Feb. 19th @ 7pm.**



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all

perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Word of God

No Other

Isaiah 43:10-13

Dr. Paul Cannings, Senior Pastor

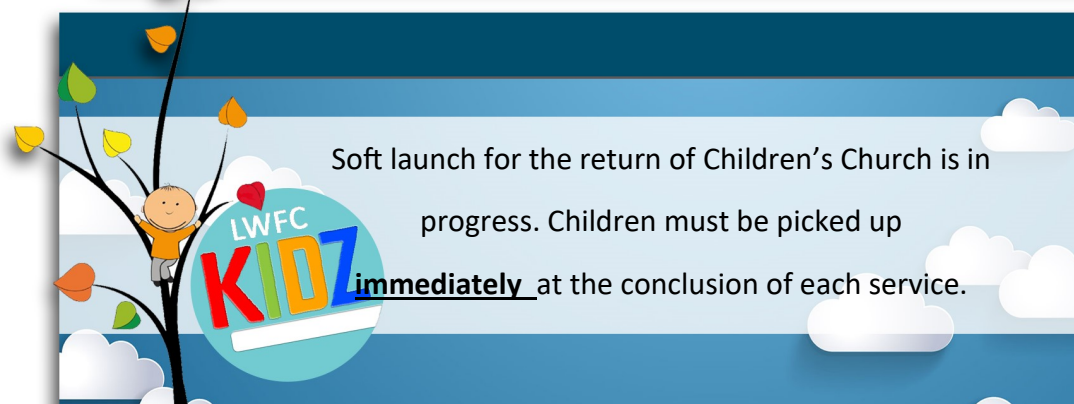
Sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

Click on the “Media” tab and click “Sermon Outline”

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song



No Other

Isaiah 43:10-13

A. It's a Fact, Not a Story (vs.10)

1. If disputed by the nation of Israel, the truth of all the Lord has done can be established, even if it is legally challenged.
2. God's Personal Pronouns: "My witnesses" (vs. 10), "My servant" (vs. 10), "believe Me" (vs. 10), "I am He" (vs. 10), "I", "I am the Lord" (vs. 11), "It is I" (vs. 12), "My witnesses" (vs.12), "I am God" (vs. 12), "I am H"" (vs. 13), "My hand" (vs.13), "I act" (vs. 13).
3. The Lord can confidently establish Israel as His witnesses because of all He has done for them.
4. Because of His covenant with Israel, the Lord sustains His relationship with Israel forever.
5. Israel is to remain humbly ready to do what the Lord says because they solely belong to Him ("my servants").
6. The Lord made a well thought out decision by carefully selecting Israel to be His servants.
7. Israel can know from their experiences when the Lord is functioning.
8. Their experience of the Lord should lead them to have an enduring trust which should cause them to stand firm in Him no matter what they may be experiencing.
9. Being the Lord's witnesses should cause them to fully trust in Him and enable them to distinguish the Lord from all other gods.
10. In the presence of God (notice Isaiah switched to God when speaking of other gods, but Lord when talking to His people), especially with a full knowledge of God no other god should be in His face.
11. Everything they know, and experience should cause them not to construct any other god.
12. Forever and forever the Lord is the only God so there is none that preceded Him or will come after Him.

B. Promises He Fulfills (vs. 11):

1. "I am" means there is absolutely no other god, and the Lord needs no help because He is powerful and has authority to do sovereignly all He intends to do.
2. We must always remember that no one ("I am") has the ability to remove us from life's burdens, catastrophes, oppressive circumstances, and dangers.
3. The Lord continues to speak and is completely committed to expose what He is doing and will do.
4. Only the Lord can remove us from any danger or any overwhelming circumstance we may experience any day or moment of the week.

5. Everything that the people are hearing is being imparted by the Lord. When each person provides the Lord their complete and undivided attention they come to a full knowledge of what is being said.
6. The nation of Israel's testimony can be decisive because of all God has done before them.
7. This word "declare," seems limited only to be used by the Lord when He makes a declaration.
8. This declaration is being stated by the One who has all power and authority to make real all that He is stating.

C. NO Other is Worth Depending On (vs. 13):

1. "I am" (repeated several times) repeatedly signifies that the Lord is an existence that never ends, needs no help, and is absolute in Himself to complete all He plans to do.
2. The Lord is forever Lord; there is no end to His power, authority, and agenda.
3. NO ONE is faithful like the Lord, NO ONE has the power and authority as the Lord, NO ONE lives forever like the Lord.
4. The Lord's hand signifies His power, strength, His control, and we are His possession.
5. When God is at work, no one can stop Him, no one can get in His way and prevent Him from accomplishing His purposes.
6. No one can indefinitely cause any act of the Lord to account for nothing by becoming what it once was.
7. God is emphatic in describing Himself.
8. In our decision making we trust our feelings, experiences, education, and job experiences. Trusting in God's Word has become a religion or church and a set of verses that encourage us, not necessarily a way of life.

PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Mary Wheatley & family, Donnie Emmerson & family, Clarence Crowe & family, Gwendolyn Baldwin & family, Marcello Ramos & family, Thurston Love & family, Pam Collier & family, Betty Biggom & family, Curtis Wiley & family, and Shuntel Moore & family.

Health and Healing: Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Hattie Williams, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Debra Gaines, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, and Jon Heard.

NO OTHER

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