

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

April 4, 2021

We arrive at Resurrection Sunday after going through some very dark days. Those days have affected many of us in different ways. These dark days have caused some of us to be exhausted, while others are hopeful. Some find themselves in pain while others find renewed strength. Some are perplexed and worried while others, even though concerned, choose to trust God, and believe Him for the best. No matter how this day finds us, we must allow Christ to still lead the way.

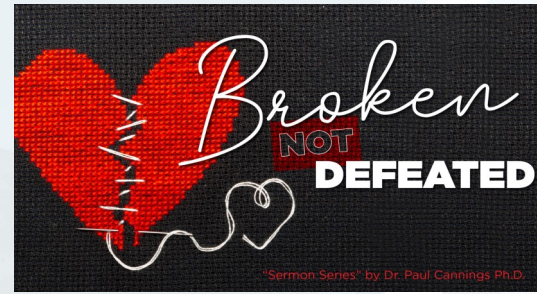


The disciples in Christ's day—regardless of how much teaching Christ provided—saw the future as victory over Roman oppression, sickness, and death. What was taking place around them shaped how they viewed Christ's message and therefore what they wanted and expected Christ to do. He disappointed them when He died. The resurrection was difficult to absorb (Mark 16:14-21) and tough for some to believe (John 20:24-29). How do our present circumstances impact our faith and expectations?

The cross expresses God's love for us (John 3:16) and the empty grave declares victory over all the effects that sin can have on us. The empty grave means that at the point of salvation, the Holy Spirit is poured into us (Titus 3:4-8) so that we are no longer empty vessels, but are Spirit filled (Ephesians 1:3-6). If we choose to abide in His Word, His love perfects us (John 15:7-11) and His transformation power (Romans 12:2) teaches us to live controlled and directed by the power within rather than the circumstances surrounding us. "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed...so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." (2 Corinthians 4:7-9; NIV). So, how does all this resurrection power become a daily reality?

When a submarine is deep in the ocean and the pressure of the water and contour of the ocean floor surrounds it, what keeps it as a productive instrument of war? The men and women who are inside use every bit of its equipment to achieve their mission. We are supposed to allow the Holy Spirit, through the work of the church, to make us fully equipped (Ephesians 4:11-16). This development empowers us to work out the salvation we already have (Philippians 2:12-13). It also allows us to experience the fruit of the Spirit who by reminding us of the Word (John 14:26) and guiding us into the truth (John 16:13), empowers us to experience life and life abundantly (John 10:10). It is for this Christ died and it is for this He lives victorious in heaven (Revelation 5:11-14), while providing us protection from evil (Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 6:11-18).

Happy Resurrection Day. Be blessed!



## UPCOMING Events

### "From Tragedy to Triumph"

Join us as we begin our weekly **Center for Christian Living** series on Tuesdays entitled "From Tragedy to Triumph" starting **April 20th—June 1st** online via Zoom.



We will dissect the life of Job and his family. Job experienced some traumatic things in his life. As a people, we've been going through some troubling times because of COVID-19. However, just like Job there is an expiration date to our troubles. Let's come out and learn how to get to the other side of tragedy. Restoration and Triumph is on the way.

For more information, contact [nordbullock@yahoo.com](mailto:nordbullock@yahoo.com)



### NOW HIRING—PRESCHOOL TEACHER

ABC Word Academy is now Hiring Pre-K Teachers. An accredited Pre-School. Call 281.260.7402 to set up your interview.



### Prayer Vigil

The Prayer Ministry is hosting the "Beyond" Prayer Vigil, **Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 12 noon, and 7 pm.**

He who hath began a great work in you will carry it on to completion..." Philippians 1:6.



### Family Bible Encounter

We are excited to announce our upcoming Family Bible Encounter starting **June 8th– 10th**. Our theme is "I Got This": "I Can Do All things Through Christ ..." *Philippians 4-13*. We have awesome classes for Adults, Youth, and Children! Hope to see you there at 6:30pm nightly.



## 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  
*Lifted*

Revelation 5:11-15

Dr. Paul Cannings

Sermon notes available online at [www.lwfellowshipchurch.org](http://www.lwfellowshipchurch.org)

Click on the "Media" tab and click "Sermon Outline"

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction & Closing Song

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.

**Ages 2—6th grade**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

**2:30 3:45 & TUESDAY NIGHTS**

**SUNDAY 6:30 PM**

## Lifted

Revelation 5:11-15

### A. Once Mocked and Slaughtered, now Praised! (vs. 11-12):

1. What John saw was vividly portrayed before him and it provided him a full experiential comprehensive understanding of all the events (1 John 1:1-2).
2. John was completely focused on what was being said with a heart that was completely surrendered to doing what he heard.
3. The angels forming the outer circle; the Church, the object of redemption, and the inner circle nearest the throne. The heavenly hosts around gaze with intense adoration at this crowning of God's love, wisdom, and power.
4. This hymn was repeatedly being sung, same words repeatedly.
5. Everything that is being said to Christ by all those around Him provided to Christ, which corresponds measurably with all that God required for Christ to do in paying for the sins of all mankind, especially since it was very brutal.
6. We are called by God to walk worthy (Ephesians 4:1-2); to accept the will of God, endure trials with a commitment to mature and to become like Him (Philippians 3:7-16).
7. Christ was a slaughtered sacrifice (lambs were sacrificed; Christ was a slaughtered sacrifice). The evidence of His slaughter remains on His glorified body. This is vividly portrayed, highlighting Christ's total surrender to all His Father's will.
8. His slain body highlights the celebration and the judgment of Satan, demons and all those who continually reject Him.
9. Everything due to Christ is going to be deposited to Him by God as 'an abiding responsibility of trust.'
10. The direct object of the Lamb being slaughtered was for Him to have God deposit His mighty power so that Christ, in His glorified body, possess the capacity and the ability to overcome all dangers or obstacles we may experience (Philippians 2:5-11).
11. Christ the Redeemer is now reestablished to the wealth and riches due Him. This is a direct object of Christ accepting God's will to be the slaughtered lamb all the material riches are deposited into His possession.
12. Accepting the brutal death on the cross and the resurrection positioned, Christ to now be empowered to use all the knowledge which He must expertly execute God's will for all mankind (Colossians 1:15-21).
13. Christ's obedience and acceptance of His brutal sacrifice have put Him as the Lamb that now possesses total power causing Him to be Almighty.
14. For all that Christ has done for mankind, all respect must be directed to Him so that He is genuinely worshipped.
15. Throughout the accusations and brutal sufferings Christ manifested the excellent divine nature of Christ.
16. All that is ascribed to Christ for all He has endured and accomplished should be added bountifully. This is because all that Christ has done and has suffered makes Him worthy (worthy – it fully aligns with every requirement that Christ was required to accept and endure).
17. The One who was mocked, scorned is now praised forever.
18. Owned nothing on earth (Luke 9:58), He now has all things restored and His restoration is forever.

### B. Victorious Forever (vs. 13-14):

1. Every created thing was directly focused on repeatedly saying with all their hearts completely surrendered to doing what they heard.
2. The throne represents that Christ took on sin and death and was completely victorious so that He now reigns with all power and authority over the entire universe.
3. With Christ sitting on the throne every creature is completely focused on when they are singing to Him, repeatedly.
4. Even though Christ is on the throne, Him being the sacrificial Lamb that died a brutal death remains what every creator reflects on.
5. All that is ascribed to Christ for all He has endured and accomplished should be added bountifully. This makes Him worthy (worthy means to be fully aligned with every requirement that Christ was required to accept and endure) of praise, the glory, honor, all the mighty attributes of God while functioning in heaven as the Lamb of God.
6. For all that Christ has done for mankind, all respect must be directed to Him so that He is genuinely worshipped.
7. The reason for all that is ascribed to the Lamb is to display His divine nature in all its excellence. They may have killed a man, but He was truly King of Kings.
8. God has established Christ to be the supernatural force who has significant superior power to rule the earth for eternity.
9. The four living creatures kept singing this song with no intention of ever stopping.
10. The elders prostrated themselves demonstrating complete respect and honor to the Lamb.
11. The elders demonstrated complete reverent devotion to the Lamb by prostrating themselves before Him, expressing how worthy He is to receive all that is and was ascribed to Him, and demonstrating their complete allegiance to Him.
12. Once on a rugged cross now a throne forever.
13. The Lamb now reigns forever establishing no more defeat for Him and all those who believe.
14. Satan has no more power to harm God's saints (Revelation 12:10).
15. **ALL AUTHORITY IS IN HIS HANDS FOREVER! HE REIGNS AS KING OF KINGS FOREVER! HALLELUJAH!!**

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** Lee White & family, Linda Harrison & family, Vicki Wilson & family, Roslyn Grimes & family, Mary Wheatley and Carol Dickerson & family, Patricia Moore & family, Judy Times & family, Terrance Ford & family, Clara Williams & family, and Lynette Mims and family.

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

