

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 18, 2021

It is difficult to be a teenager and live with a commitment to God because the world can be brutal to those who are different or who seek to live committed lives for Christ. If a teenager tries to be a part of the world, it uses them and then discards them (Luke 9:24-26). If they try to love the world and love God, they become God's enemy (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16; Revelations 3:15-18), and life becomes extremely difficult for them. If they seek to love God, no matter how different they may seem, they gain more meaning and substance for life (Luke 12:31), but they also experience more persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). God uses these circumstances to deepen their commitment to Him and to mature them spiritually (James 1:2-4). Being different does take courage (Joshua 1:5-9). Living for Christ consistently creates a need for encouragement and support. The benefits, however, are powerful. To indulge in the things of the world may seem like fun but it is always temporary. Since it is temporary, it creates a need for more fun which creates a need for more friends, more money, more clothes, and more parties. Every time a person is not experiencing these things, they become bored and feel like they are missing out. The need to be satisfied never stops and it gets more expensive as time progresses (Ecclesiastes 11:9-10; 12:1,13-14). The benefit of growing spiritually, however, is that it leads to godliness which empowers a person to learn contentment (1 Timothy 6:6; Philippians 4:11).



The story is told of a little boy who was playing in his parent's backyard. While playing he rolled a log over and became excited to find what he thought were worms. He became so occupied with these "worms" that he ignored the constant sting he felt while playing. His mother, who came to the back door to check on him, saw him in the corner of the backyard and went to see what he was doing. When she arrived, she immediately recognized that the "worms" he was playing with were small snakes. The mother started violently pushing back the snakes and pulling the boy away. The boy became angry and began crying. The mother screamed so loud that the boy's father came running. The father killed the snakes and within minutes the boy was in the emergency room, suddenly feeling the sting from the bites of the snakes and became weak from the poison. The doctors, nurses, and medical technicians were now fighting to save his life.

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? (Luke 9:24-25)

## UPCOMING Events



### Health Awareness Month

For the entire month on July, we will host **Self-Care Saturdays** to help give health, fitness, and nutrition information, offer COVID-19 vaccinations, and offer other vital wellness information for Men, Women, Children and Youth.

Join us on **July 31st at 10am- 3pm** for our **Health Fair & Kidz Zone**. Receive your 1st or 2nd dose of the COVID-19 vaccine., get information on Strokes, Heart Attacks, get a Health Check-Up to know your numbers! **Giveaways, Games & More** Take care of the temple God has given you!



### Bible Study With Pastor Paul Cannings

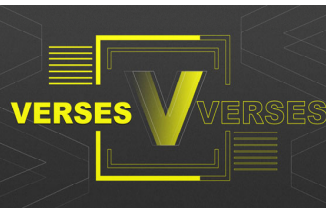
**4 Ways To Connect**  
Starting Tuesday, July 27, 2021 | 12noon & 7pm

1. In-Person
2. LIVE on Facebook
3. LIVE on YouTube
4. Free Conference Call 1-978-990-5374 Access 1165799



### Marriage Ministry—Dating Series

The Covenant Keepers Marriage Ministry presents a **Summer Date Series!** The First Day Date will be a trip to the Houston Museum of African American Culture - **Saturday, July 24th at 1:30 p.m!** **First 12 couples ONLY!** Masks are required! RSVP at [LWFCmarriagemin@gmail.com](mailto:LWFCmarriagemin@gmail.com)



### Youth Bible Study & Fellowship Group

There is a lot going on in the world right now. God has a Word for you in all that you are going through in **VERSES!**

Join the LEGACY Youth (grade 7th-12th) online group via zoom each **Wednesday at 7 p.m.** Learn how to walk through life's challenges understanding God's Word. The study book is "Basic Bible Interpretation" by Dr. Roy B. Zuck. Contact Youth Minister Jordan Washington for more information at [legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:legacyyouth@lwfellowshipchurch.org)



### SANITY Workout | Sat., July 24th @ 10am

Join the LEGIT & Faith Fitness Ministries for a Self-Care Saturday Workout, Fellowship & Refreshments afterwards.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

*Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses*

Special Music

*"Tunnel Vision"*

Psalm 119:9-11, 105

Full 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

**NO CHILDREN'S , LEGACY YOUTH CHURCH OR LIFE APP CLASSES FOR THE ENTIRE MONTH OF JULY.**

**LEGACY** EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

**MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL**

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

**SUNDAY 6:30 PM**

## Tunnel Vision

*Psalm 119:9-11, 105*

### A. Overcoming the Effects of the Tunnel (vs. 9-10):

1. To keep God's Word is to not allow our emotions, past experiences, or various ways of thinking stop us from remembering what His Word says or from obeying Him.
2. When the Psalmist mentions "way," he is referring to a lifestyle that is like a well-trodden path through a forest (life challenges) or a garden clearly defining whether we are people of integrity, upright or godly.
3. To remain consistently morally healthy can be a challenge especially for a young man. This is critical to the young man living consistently righteous. Preserving this type of focus when there are passions and constant distractions is a challenge in a world that is morally lawless.
  - a) David uses the word "keep" meaning not just to know, but to also do! David knew taking Bathsheba and killing her husband were wrong (he was quick to respond when Nathan confronted him) but he did not "keep". He allowed his passions to run wild.
    - He is seeking the Lord with "all my heart". His passions have to be like Paul told Timothy; "Flee youthful lust, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace with those who call on the Lord with a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22).
4. The young man must hold to God's Word when everything else internally and externally says to do otherwise.
5. The young man must see the Lord's Word as divine truth that comes directly from God so that to obey the Word is to submit to the sovereign authority of the Lord in all his ways. (Proverbs 3:5-6).
  - a) The Word of God must become a way of life (Ps. 119:105; Prov. 6:23) allows us to sense what is good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).
6. With the totality of our innermost feelings, wisdom, and understanding, we must in every respect put every effort into experiencing the Holy Spirit's work in our lives. This, and only this, will enable us to keep ourselves morally sound based on the Word of God (2 Tim. 2:23).
7. We must be completely surrendered to inquiring of the Lord, seeking to learn about Him, and to surrender our mind or emotions to His will. This is because the flesh is totally contrary to the Spirit of God's influence on our spirit (Galatians 5:16-18).
8. Seeking the Lord with every intention should be countered with a request to the Lord that we do not function without purpose in a lifestyle that is contrary to what He is requiring of us (2 Timothy 2:22).
9. We should not live purposelessly when God has provided us 'clear cut directives' of His divine will.
10. Because we live in sinful flesh and can repeatedly sin (Romans 8:14-21), we must seek the Lord so that, through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, He can remind us of His Word (John 14:26), which convicts us when we do wrong (John 16:7-11), therefore, strengthening us so that we do not aimlessly live disrespecting His authority by forsaking His moral will.

### B. Gaining Light Through the Tunnel (vs. 11; 105):

1. When we are taught the Word of God, we must do our best to understand it, so that we can retain it in our minds and hearts.
2. The commandments of the Lord and the teaching of the Lord must become priceless in value so that we determinatively seek to store it up in our minds, with the help of the Holy Spirit (John 14:26); so that it guides, directs, and rules our lives. When we do so, it demonstrates how much we value the Word of God.
3. The Word must be of significant value because our deepest innermost emotions can cause us to neglect what the Lord is saying, especially when things are stressful. The Word must be more than just information. It needs to become our passion.
4. We must purpose to treasure God's Word in our hearts so that we do not continuously violate it to the point it becomes our normal course of life.
5. When we are taught the Word of God, we must do our best to understand it so that we can retain it in our minds and hearts. Its purpose is for guiding and directing our lives.
6. Because Jesus is the light (John 1:5-7), in the New Testament we can view Him as the lamp that keeps burning so that we can "walk in the light as He is in the light", He becomes the lamp; He never goes out, constantly guiding us through the darkness of the world.
7. The Lord providing wisdom, discernment or understanding (light) amid temptation and the many distractions on social media, blesses us to experience the working out of our salvation, prosperity, and direction (light) rather than the negative effects of a sinful life.
8. Everyone's manner of living is unique and particular to their way of life. Their passions, ambitions, academic pursuits, and family life may be quite different. No matter how different they may be, it should all be influenced and directed by the Word of God.

## PRAYER REQUEST

**Grieving:** Catherine Asuquo & family, Shanna Edwards & family, Daphne Banks & family, and Wendy Oliver & family and Margaret Baptiste & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Octavia Scott, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Brittany Bullock, Sara-Beth Mathis, Barbara Gordon, Ella James, Pat Crawford, Lisa Roberts, Birdie Williams, Jon Heard, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Linda Rainey, and Nikisha Doyle,

