

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

July 4, 2021

Our society has placed so many demands on us, which has caused us to make a variety of decisions to meet those demands. This can lead to higher levels of tension and stress. In many of these instances, God is not making any of these demands. As a result, this tension causes us to lose the joy and the pleasure of living. (Philippians 4:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

Society demands that we must all be a certain size. It demands the kind of clothes we must wear just to fit in. It also responds to us in a certain manner if we are the minority or the majority, Democrat or Republican, tall or short, rich or poor, married or single, educated or uneducated. We can have a car that may be old but drives well, but we become embarrassed and unhappy because it is not the latest model. It is not that we cannot experience joy, because we are blessed with all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3), but it is the external pressures that are determined by the world that block our internal joy from being experienced each day.

According to the Chicago Tribune, on Monday, August 26, 1996, tragedy struck a Fort Lauderdale, Florida, family. Two boys found their twelve-year-old brother Samuel dead in their yard. He hung himself from a tree. Beneath the tree were a step stool and a flashlight.

There was little mystery about what had provoked Samuel to end his life. Samuel was fat, and this would have been his first day at a new school. He told his family that he was nervous about going to school because he was afraid of the teasing that would likely come from the other children.

This child did not die because he went to war, developed cancer, was serving the Lord in an uncivilized village, and was killed, but he died because he was fat. Societal pressure so dominates us that enjoying the life God provides can easily be erased.

The Bible says, "...I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139:14) Luke 12:22-23; 25-26 states; "And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not be anxious for {your} life, {as to} what you shall eat; nor for your body, {as to} what you shall put on. For life are more than food, and the body than clothing. And which of you by being anxious can add a {single} cubit to his life's span? If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why are you anxious about other matters?" The only pressure we should be experiencing should be from the molding done by the hands of the Potter (from His pruning) (Jeremiah 18:4-6), so we bear the fruit of life that He provides (John 10:10; 15:1-5; Hebrews 12:7-11). This process is a lighter yoke than the damage the world does to our lives (Matthew 11:28-30).



UPCOMING Events



Health Awareness Month

For the entire month on July, we will host **Self Care Saturdays** to help with COVID-19 Vaccinations and offer vital health information for Men, Women, and Children.

Join us on **July 10th** at 10am– 3pm for our Health Fair & Kidz Zone. Receive your first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The second dose will be administered on **July 31st**.

- God Answers: Sex & Sexuality — July 17th
- Sanity Workout by Legit & Faith Fitness— July 24th



Promise Keepers Men's Conference

Join the Kingdom Builder's Men's Ministry & men from around the country for worship that strengthens the soul, brotherhood that lasts a lifetime, and tools that empower you to be the man Christ intended you to be.

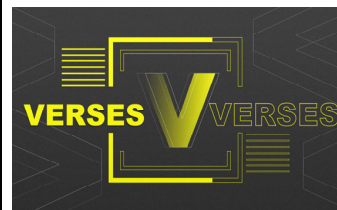
July 16th through 17th | Arlington, TX

For more information, contact or Tony Hall at tony.hall5962@yahoo.com



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



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 7pm**. 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.



Prayer Vigil

Join us on **Tuesday, Jul 13th | 12 noon & 7pm.**

Free Conference Call :1 (978) 990 5374

Access Code 1165799



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor's Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

"Useful"

Proverbs 13:13-14

Pastor Paul Cannings

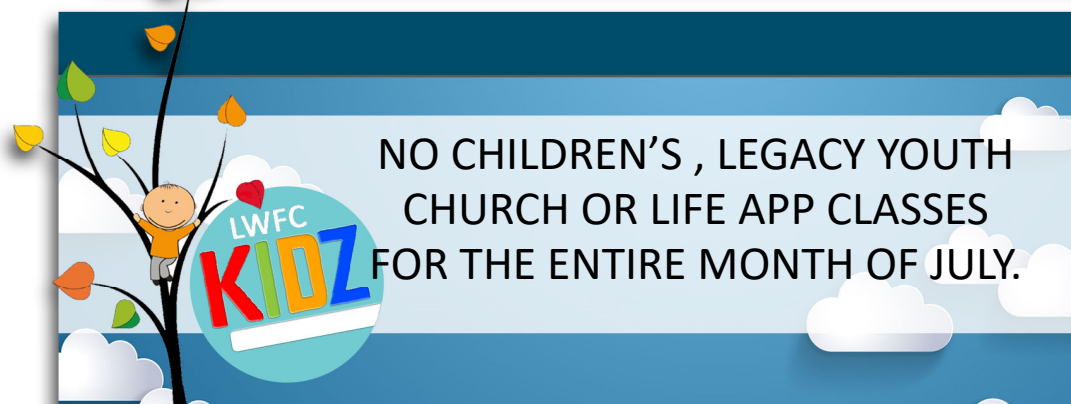
Full sermon notes available online at www.lwfellowshipchurch.org

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

Call to Discipleship

Please remain seated at this time

Benediction



SERMON OUTLINE

Useful

Proverbs 13:13-14

A. It Rewards (vs. 13):

1. To despise the Word is to treat it with contempt. It is to act as if the Word is beneath our intelligence and ability when the Lord addresses an issue differently than the way we do.
2. To despise the Word is to treat the divine prophetic revelation of God as being beneath us or as nonsense or unnecessary.
3. The word 'debt' is like a cord or rope that is attached to someone so that once connected it can lead them to death, sorrow, or even become a snare. This cord or rope is also an analogy of someone being connected to the repayment of a loan. So, the person who is in debt to the Word is attached to it until what is said is accounted for.
 - a. Being in debt to it is not a possibility; it is a certainty.
4. In contrast to the person who despises the Lord's divine message is the person who reverences God because they stand in awe of His power and authority. This person is a "God-fearer."
 - a. Fearing God is critical to productive results when it comes to God's Word (The lack of fear was because people hated knowledge – 1:29; 3:7 – do not be wise in your own eyes): "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline." (1:7, 33; 9:10).
5. This person reverences the power and authority of the Lord, so view God's divine revelation as a directive from the Lord to whom they are subservient (He is their teacher, and they are His students; John 4:26; 1 John 2:26-27).
6. The "God-fearer" lives in harmony with the Lord (John 15:1-11), develops a friendship with God (John 15:13-14) and is therefore fulfilled in what they do.
 - a. Despising parental or other instruction results in a person having to make a "payment" of guilt and punishment. But respecting such instruction to the point of following it results in the "reward" of blessings.

B. It Protects (vs. 14):

1. Teaching is not just providing information; its' purpose is to assimilate the words being communicated into the life of the hearer. The person being taught the Word of God is a person who receives God's instruction as a means of directing their lives to do what is being taught.
2. A wise person is one who has become skillful in applying God's Word to real life situations so that each day they live reverencing the Lord.

3. The person who does not hold God's Word with contempt (the scoffer; Psalm 1:1) but rather fears the Lord and is therefore rewarded for their faithful wise living, is a person who experiences the intrinsic good that life empowers by God provides (Prov. 24:3-5).
 - a. In an arid land such as ancient Judah, a fountain provided water for oneself and for one's flocks. It was a necessity—a source of life. That is a very strong endorsement for the law of the wise. A fountain was also a picture of salvation (Is. 12:1-3).
4. The person who walks wisely because they opened their hearts to God's instruction changes the course of their life. They cut themselves off from anything that is destructive and only focus on what the Lord is saying.
5. To walk wisely is to change the direction of life away from the traps of life. To not change direction would be the same as an animal strolling along only to find itself caught in a trap or to allow the enticements of life to lure us so that we become entangled in sin (Ex. 10:7).
6. To be caught in a snare, when we choose not to listen to the Lord's instruction and apply His Word skillfully, it leads to sickness (1 Cor. 11:29-32), and possibly an early death (1 John 5:16), something God takes no pleasure in (Ezek. 18:32).



PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Melinda Parsee & Family, Nikisha Doyle & Family, the Family of Debra Gaines, Wanda Ryan & Family, Curtis Sanders & Family, Sybil Grenion & Family, Pastor Duane Lawrence & Family, Doris Henderson & Family & Billy Mitchell & Family, Catherine Asuquo and Family & Shanna Edwards and Wendy Oliver and 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, Lyndia Tarkington, Deacon Jessie Austin, Loretha Logan, Jonathan Ned, Athena Hall, Lurlean Lane, Eric White, Lakessia Davis, Rutha Patrick, Nikisha Doyle, and Linda Rainey.

USEFUL

PROVERBS 13:13-14