

Pastoral REFLECTIONS

August 1, 2021

Many times, when people say church they think of a spirited worship service, an inspiring sermon but is that alone church? That would be like a person who when they think about family they only think of food or a person when think about their job all they think about is the money. That mindset can be self-centered. When it is self-centered it may for a moment be self-gratifying, but after a while it becomes like the effects of a drug or alcohol, a need for more to arrive at the feeling, rather than grow to become better.

To understand, in this short article, “why church,” is to first understand what Satan seeks to do when we are away from church. Satan’s desire is to find anything he can to destroy us (John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8-9). He establishes whatever he can to gratify the flesh because he knows it is contrary to God (Galatians 5:16-19) and its natural desires have nothing to do with God, it is very attracted to what he does in the world (James 4:1-4; we are born sinners – Psalm 51:5). Since he is in control of the world (1 John 5:19) he sets up the world to serve the flesh because this will automatically make us an enemy of God (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15). He does this by working with the parts of our body that never got saved; the eye (Matthew 6:22-23), the tongue (James 3), the mind (Romans 2:12), the stomach (Philippians 3:19), how we work with our hands, etc. We can become slaves to these non-saved members of our body (Romans 6:12-14) moving us towards him, not God. Satan has twenty-four seven to do this while God only has two, two-hour days to make an impact in our lives. So, Satan uses his power over the world to lure us away from God so that we like a fish out of water are at his mercy.

On the other hand, God is trying to develop us from the inside out because when He saves us, He deposits in us the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:4-8; Christ Helper) to transform us when we demonstrate a commitment to grow (Philippians 2:12-13). When that determination is firm God uses the church to steer us away from the flesh to the work of the Spirit (Romans 8:5-12). As a result, the Spirit impacts everything in the church; the selection of a pastor (Ephesians 4:11), the selection of leaders (Acts 14:23; 20:28), spiritual gifts (Ephesians 4:1-7), and the preached word (Romans 10:14-17; Acts 2:42). When members use their spiritual gifts, are committed to discipleship, and to love each other, the Spirit’s work is not quenched (1 Thessalonians 4:14-19), so members end up blessed from Zion (Ephesians 4:13; John 13:34-35; Psalm 128:5-6) experiencing long life. A lack of taking this seriously can cause God to turn us over to our enemy (Deuteronomy 28:47-48).



UPCOMING Events



Back to School Bash

Our annual Back to School Bash will happen on Saturday, **August 14th at 10am-2pm**. Join us for a time full of fun packed activities and games for the kids.

Donations for school supplies are now being accepted. Please contact Pastor Allen Boutte at the Christian Outreach Center (713) 683-0847.



Bible Study with Pastor Paul Cannings 4 Ways To Connect Tuesdays | 12noon & 7pm

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



Family Ties Conference—Aug 10th—12th

Join us for a 3-day event nightly at 7 p.m. for the **Family Ties Conference** with special guest speaker Dr. Paul Chipman, author of the book, **“Conflict in the Mind”**. We will deal with how conflict affects family relationships and how they can be mended to be healthy relationships as God intended. All ages are welcomed. Refreshments will be served. For more information on our Family Ministry contact

jeffrey.lynn85@gmail.com



Creative Jams

Every Saturday in August, the LWFC Drama Ministry will host a Drama Workshop in the Choir Room from 1-3 p.m. If you are interested in writing, acting, stage management, production, etc., please contact Elisha Taylor and Melita Washington.



Marriage Summit

Calling All Married Couples The Covenant Keeper Marriage Ministry will Host a Marriage Summit Workshop on **August 28th from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.** in Legacy Sanctuary. For more information contact Jefferey Allen.



Life Application Classes

We are back in-person and virtually on Free Conference Call. Learn how to practically apply the word of God in your life. See you after First Service and Contact your Deacon for your Free Conference Call Meeting Information! Life Application is Key so Walk With Us in Life App!



ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Visitor’s Welcome

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

The Rock

Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 3:10

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

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

LEGACY EFFECTING TODAY FOR TOMMORROW youth ministry of LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP

MIDDLE SCHOOL - HIGH SCHOOL

2:30 4:00 & TUESDAY NIGHTS

SUNDAY 6:30 PM

SERMON OUTLINE

The Rock

Matthew 16:18-19; Ephesians 3:10

A. Unmovable (vs. 18):

1. After recognizing that God spoke to Peter (Jesus being in the nature of God would know that without having to ask), Jesus follows the declaration provided by God, by now saying to Peter what all this means in relation to development of the church.
2. The indirect object of what Christ is explaining but this is what Peter is provided by God.
3. This is the massive bolder that is the foundation upon which the church would become immovable (1 Corinthians 10:4; 3:10-11; 1 Peter 2:8; Christ is also the cornerstone, Ephesians 2:20-22).
4. The word 'build' here means to edify a believer so that they are built up to spiritual maturity. It is through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, like in the case of Peter, illuminating the true meaning of God's Word (John 14:16-17) that we are strengthened from the inside out.
5. The church belongs to Christ because it is a collection of faithful believers gathered as free citizens (Ephesians 2:19) in a public assembly, called by a herald to worship Christ.
6. The gates that are possessed by Satan and his demons and for all those who are dead and are placed in an intermediate place before being cast into the lake of fire. The presence of death and the activity of Satan will not have greater strength than the church that Christ establishes.
7. Death will not overcome the church that Christ establishes. At the point of death, we will immediately be in the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

B. The Power (vs. 19):

1. It is Christ church; so, He will provide the church a permanent possession of His keys so that the church is equipped to deal with the onslaught of Satan's attacks.
2. By the presence of the Holy Spirit in each believer's life (Titus 3:4-8) the Helper of Christ permanently places the authority and ability to implement the Word of God to address all schemes that Satan uses against the church. These keys were given to the other apostles (Matt. 28:18-20; 24:14; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 10:42) and to all Christians (2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:15; 2 Cor. 5:20; Rom. 10:11-16; Eph. 6:15; Matt. 28:18-20).
3. The church, in contrast to Satan's kingdom of death, possesses keys that provide it the power and authority by which the Lord God rules the earth.
4. Whatever, under the authority provided, is restricted, so that it is under obligation to Christ's authority will be completely incapacitated in heaven. This is the main point (subject) why the keys are provided to the church to combat the attacks of Satan through His many gates (2 Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:11 – Satan has many schemes) to bring death and ruin to the church (John 10:10; 1 Peter 4:17; 5:8; Revelation 12:10).
5. Whatever is decided to once and for all be freed or delivered from any restrictions provided by the authority of Christ as determined by the keys, is considered to be under no restrictions in heaven.

C. Restrains Satan (Ephesians 3:10):

1. This verse provides the intent, the purpose of the 'administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God' revealed through the preaching of the Gospel.

2. "The wisdom of God has shown itself in Christ to be varied beyond measure and in a way which surpasses all previous knowledge thereof." (3:18-19). In other words, the skillful application of God's Word in its highest and fullest sense when being applied to real life situations has several different ways of being applied. (James 1:5-9; 3:15-18).
3. When the mysteries of the Lord are exposed the revelation of God's saving purposes is proclaimed through Christ.
4. The numerous ways of God's wisdom being exposed takes through the collection of faithful believers gathered as free citizens (Ephesians 2:19) in a public assembly, called by a herald to worship Christ proclaiming the salvific work of God.
5. This is a reference to the evil forces of Satan who function with power and authority and have the ability and strength to execute their wicked agenda (Ephesians 6:11-12).



ABC WORD ACADEMY

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PRAYER REQUEST

Grieving: Catherine Asuquo & family, Shanna Edwards & family, Daphne Banks & family, Wendy Oliver & family, Margaret Baptiste & family, Valencia Rucker & family, Caesar and Mary Ngwazini & family, Joseph and Cici Sharp & family, and Pastor Duane Lawrence & 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,

THE ROCK

MATTHEW 16:18-19; EPHESIANS 3:10